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1000



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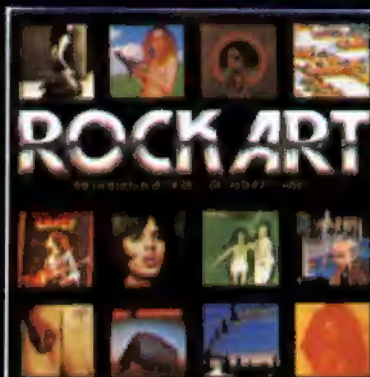
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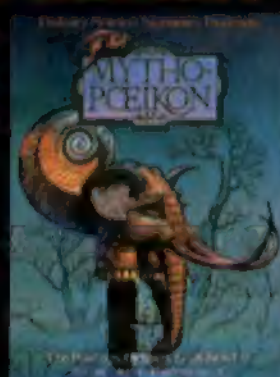
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EERIE®

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In this 30 page Rook special the Rook goes off to find the legendary underground city of gold in China. While the Rook is being tortured in China, an alien crash lands on present day Earth!

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Dear Cousin Eerie,

What, only three stories in EERIE #98?

Ordinarily, something like this would be the cause of a rabidly complaining diatribe on my part, protesting such a monstrous waste of my hard-earned dollar and a quarter. But not this time. On the contrary, EERIE #98 stands as one of the finest issues of the magazine in many a moon and makes a clear-cut case for quality winning over quantity any time.

Starting with the extra-length Rook story, "Quarb and the War Ball," I must say that it was certainly worth the wait. It also provides evidence of something I have long suspected: that Bill DuBay works best with longer-length stories. They are almost inevitably superior to his shorter (fifteen pages or less) scripts. In fact, I have only two small complaints. First, having Quarb singing "Clementine" during the Pliocene age tended to reduce the humor to farce. Second, that pipe of his... what, in a pre-agricultural age, does he put in it? These things aside, though, it was a highly enjoyable story. Luis Bermejo's art was also excellent this time around. And, judging by Quarb's comments to Manners on page 25, we haven't seen the last of the man who was, at least twice, Restin Dane's ancestor.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.

I've just finished reading EERIE #97. I think it is one of the very best. I came to this conclusion on two points:

First Rich Corben is the best illustrator to come along since Frank Frazetta. He's fresh, different and his techniques are completely different from anyone else's.

Secondly, Bruce Jones, whose stories I have enjoyed for a long time, came up with a fantastic story. The three interlocking parts of the Time Travel series made for a great issue. And that ending was something else!

There was only one thing wrong. Bruce Jones failed to explain certain factors about body transfers etc., but you don't really think about it at the time. The overall effect was, however, outstanding!

PVT 2 BRIAN REGAL
U.S. Army
Bamberg, Germany

I've always been somewhat skeptical of time travel stories because of the basic logical impossibility of time travel, but I must give Bill DuBay full credit for his story in #98 dealing with that modern day Rip Hunter, the Rook. The "man who lives forever" is not a new concept but DuBay had the inspiration (or gall) to push it to the full limit and make that man the original man, ancestor of us all. Tie this together with Quarb's unique character, the two simultaneous time trips (how can time trips be simultaneous?) and Quarb's several appearances in different time frames and you have an above-average Rook story; not great, but good. Still, there are those nagging doubts about time travel. Perhaps this story is the one on which to lay the Rook to rest.

THE MAD MAPLE
Toronto, Canada

"Harrow House" is definitely the best story ever printed in EERIE! I know because I have been reading Warren magazines for a long time. I still have in my possession EERIE #2, CREEPY #1 and VAMPIRELLA #1. In all of the issues of all of the Warren magazines there has never been a story to compare to "Harrow House." I hope Bruce Jones is up to producing more of comparable quality.

CHUCK BOYER
Lowell, Ind.

"Mac Tavish" was remarkably good!! This series is definitely a take-off on Star Wars, Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon and the art was terrific. Please, please keep this series going for a long time.

"The Ark" was magnificent and Roger McKenzie is great.

PAUL GOMPERTZ
New York, N.Y.

The epic of "Quarb and the War Ball" was fantastic! Quarb not only outdoes my hero the Rook (which is no easy feat), but he is a woman chaser after my own heart. The story and the art work should win an award. I can only hope that you will show just when Restin Dane met Quarb. That should outdo even the meeting of Restin and Gat Hawkin, the original Rook arch-nemesis!

ROLAND W. OWES
Brooklyn, N.Y.

I've done my homework like a good boy, concerning Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. The Theory does indeed state that an object will be "compressed" as it approaches the speed of light. This will not, however, affect its mass. If it weighed a ton when it started out, it would continue to weigh a ton at any speed. The Theory also states that time will "slow down" as lightspeed is approached, and will ultimately stop altogether at the speed of light. The speed of light, as I'm sure you know, is about 186,000 miles per second, or approximately 670 million miles per hour—and that is very, very fast indeed.

Okay—on to the problems with Culi's story.

(1) It simply isn't possible for a Terrestrial aircraft, no matter how sophisticated or "experimental" or sexy, to approach the speed of light in any meaningful way.

(2) The idea of "shrinking" as one approaches lightspeed actually refers to a sort of "longitudinal compression." In other words, the craft would telescope from stem to stern, until it becomes as thin and flat as an 8"x10" glossy of a U.S. postage stamp. By then it would no longer bear any resemblance to itself, and any creature subjected to this would fare badly.

(3) The matter of time. Setting (1) and (2) aside for the moment, let's say that our pilot and his craft were able to approach the speed of light here on Earth. Time would indeed slow down for him, but not for any external observer on the Earth's surface. The pilot would perceive the passage of only a brief moment, whereas the observer would live through a year or more of "real" time. The search for the pilot would have ended long before the pilot returned to his senses.

(4) The amount of energy (read: fuel) required to propel an aircraft at speeds approaching that of light would be prohibitive—not to mention the expense.

(5) Finally, forgetting everything else I've mentioned, it is absolutely certain that the atmospheric friction acting upon an aircraft approaching lightspeed would turn it into a fused cinder.

None of this matters, of course. Ray Bradbury ignored science and hardly anybody cares, and hyperspace is but another way of saying "away we go." For myself, I like to get things right, although I don't always succeed, but in the final analysis, the story is the thing, and it always will be. The best I can do, when I'm in a wild mood, is try to come up with something that nobody can disprove. I'd rather be unlikely than wrong. Not that anybody is ever fooled anyway.

BOB TOOMEY
Springfield, Mass.

EERIE magazine has become one of the most innovative magazines in the history of comics. The Rook story in #98 was excellent and is the type of story I have come to expect from the talented pen of Bill DuBay.

The continuing story, as opposed to the one shot story, gives the reader time to understand the characters and we tend to remember them over a longer period of time.

Best of luck on your 100th issue!

C. BROOKS
Bowling Green, Oh.

I've been collecting Warren magazines for a couple of years now.

Reader Rick Berry of Arizona (EERIE #95) is right. The Rook belongs to prime time TV. I'm sick and tired of this long running series. Why can't it end just like the others? If you can't end the Rook why not transfer it to VAMPIRELLA and give us a new series? One which will remind us of Coffin Hunter, Terminator or Jackass.

There seems to be a void in your writing staff since Bruce Bezaire left and Budd Lewis became unproductive. I miss these guys. A writer I'm always looking forward to is Bruce Jones, but it's hard for him to produce hit after hit. Why not hunt down new talents who would fill up the void created by the departure of these guys? Newcomer Bob Toomey is a good prospect.

I have witnessed many developments at Warren, particularly in the art department. I've seen the "Spanish Conquest" of Warren which brought in guys like my favorite Jose Ortiz. He is head and shoulders above the rest. Maroto, Gonzalez, Aureleon, Bermejo, Sanchez, Fernandez et al are just as good—so why does Joe Brancatelli complain of Spaniards taking over Warren? It is good to see Third World artists, particularly Filipinos like Nino, Alcalá, Nebres, Laxamana and Jodloman getting a break at Warren. Nino is the prototypical artist of the eighties and I'm glad Warren's got him.

BAYANI DIMASUPIL
Metro-Manila, Philippines

I'm not a physicist, but you don't have to be one to comprehend Nicola Culi's explanation of the effect of light speed on matter.

DAVID HICKS
Winston, Or.

Dear Cousin Eerie,

c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
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The ROOK

MASTER OF TICH

THE SUN DROOPS
SULLENLY IN THE
MAGNIFICENT SCAR-
LET SKY, AND THE
AROMA OF THE ON-
COMING DUSK IS THE
SWEET, PURE AROMA
OF THE WORLD IN A
SIMPLER TIME.

IT IS 1875, AND TO
RESTIN DANE, TIME
TRAVELER, AND RE-
SPECTED INHABITANT OF
THE YEAR 1979, THE
ARID ARIZONA DESERT
IS BEAUTY PERSONIFIED.
HE IS ACUTELY AWARE
THAT WITHIN THIS SEEM-
INGLY LIFELESS LAND-
SCAPE LURKS HARSH,
MERCILESS DEATH FOR
THE UNWARY, YET THERE
IS SOMETHING MORE
HERE, TOO...NESTLED
SECURELY IN A NOOK,
HIDDEN FROM THE OUT-
SIDE WORLD, LIES A
FABLED KINGDOM
WHICH HE HAS TRAVELED
MORE THAN A CENTURY
TO FIND!

TICH, THE LEGENDARY
RETREAT OF ANCIENT ORIENTAL
WARRIORS! IT'S HERE! I KNOW
IT IS! EVERY TEXT EVER WRITTEN
INDICATES THAT IT LIES WITHIN
THIS GENERAL REGION.

EVER SINCE
I WAS A BOY...WHEN I
FIRST LEARNED OF THE
FABLED CITY, I'VE HEARD ITS
SIREN CALL...LURING ME
TO ITS GOLDEN WALLS.

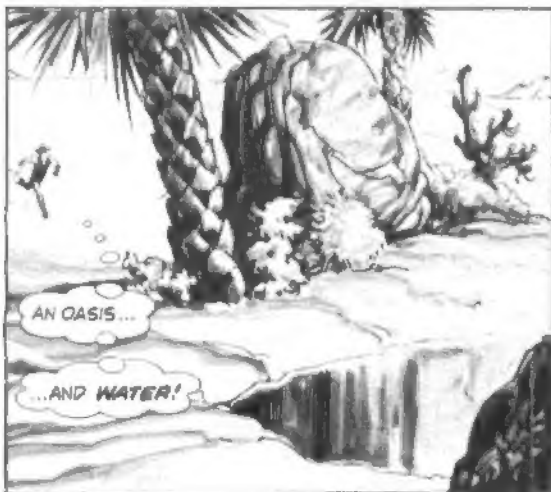
I MUST
FIND IT, I MUST KNOW
FOR CERTAIN THAT IT
EXISTS...OR THAT IT IS SIMPLY
ANOTHER MYTH TO EMERGE
FROM THE WILD,
WOOLLY WEST.

BUT HOW MUCH
LONGER CAN I CONTINUE
TO SEARCH? MY FOOD...MY
WATER...ARE GONE!

AND I HAVE
NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER
THIS TIME SEGMENT I'VE LATCHED
ONTO WILL LAST ANOTHER DAY...

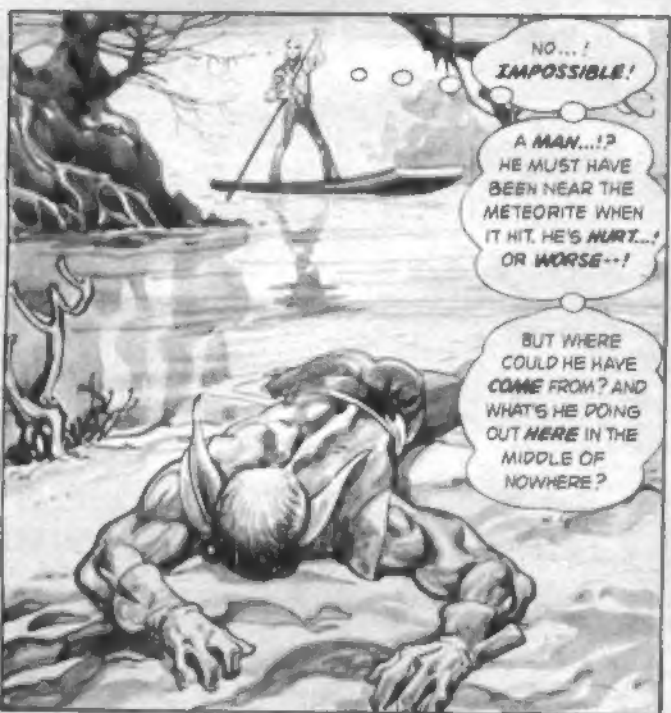
...OR WILL ALLOW ME
TO STAY IN THIS TIME PERIOD
FOR ANOTHER MONTH! *

*RESTIN DANE, THE ROOK, TRAVELS IN TIME BY CAPTURING
TIME SEGMENTS OF INDETERMINABLE LENGTH. WHEN THE TIME
FRAGMENTS EXPIRE, HE IS TRAPPED IN A TIMELESS BLACK
VOID, DEVOID OF ALL PHYSICAL CREATION.

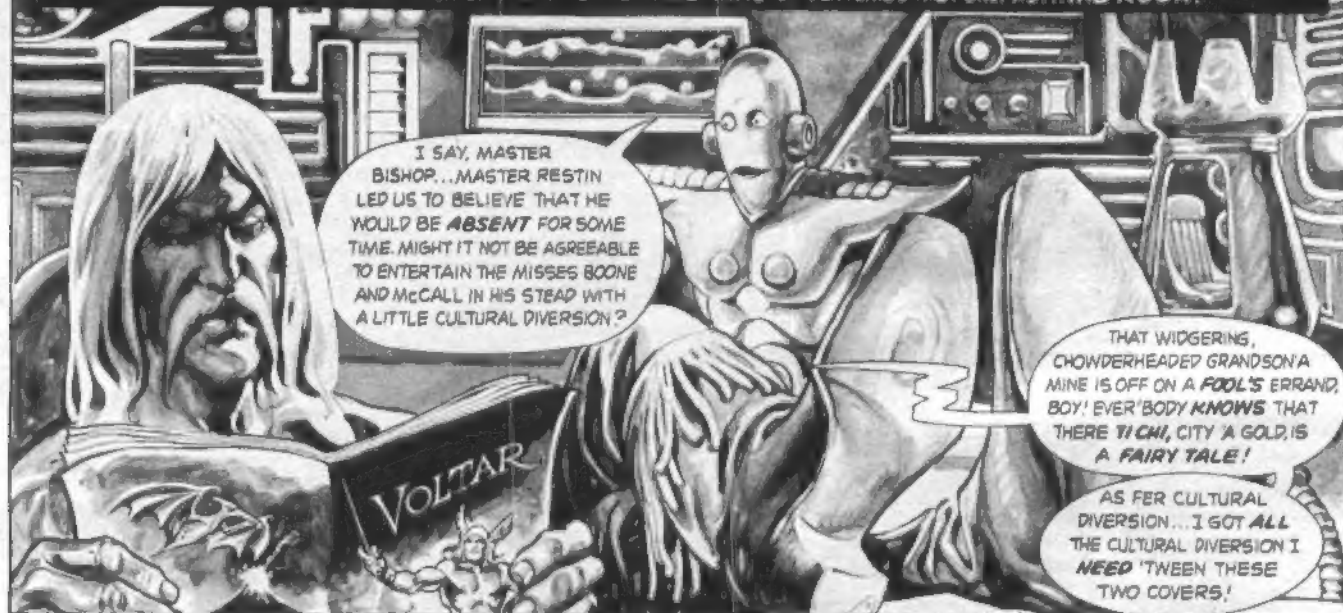


THE TIME IS THE PRESENT, THE HUMID MARSH IS AS WARM AND AS SILENT AS THE DESERT. BUT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF WATER IN THE STILL, FLORIDIAN SWAMPS. FOR ONE LONE MAN, FLEEING THE STRESS OF CIVILIZATION, THE CLOYING, OPPRESSIVE EVERGLADES, IS *HOME*.

ASIDE FROM THE CRUMBLING, RAT-FESTERED ORPHANAGE ON MINNEAPOLIS' SLEAZY SOUTH SIDE TWENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD **BJORN SWENSON** HAS NEVER KNOWN ANOTHER HOME. HERE, AT LEAST, THERE ARE NO LAUGHING CHILDREN, TAUNTING BJORN BECAUSE HE CAN NEITHER HEAR OR SPEAK. HERE, THERE IS ONLY *PEACE*. BUT TONIGHT, BJORN CAN FEEL IT, THE PEACEFULNESS IS SOME-
HOW... *DIFFERENT!*



HALF A CONTINENT WESTWARD, IT IS BARELY THE TWILIGHT OF WINTER, BUT THE WARM SETTING SUN SMILES TEPIDLY ON THE DESERT HOME OF **RESTIN DANE**, THE ADVENTURER, INVENTOR KNOWN TO THE INHABITANTS OF CENTURIES PAST ONLY AS...**THE ROOK!**



I SAY, MASTER BISHOP...MASTER RESTIN LED US TO BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD BE **ABSENT** FOR SOME TIME. MIGHT IT NOT BE AGREEABLE TO ENTERTAIN THE MISSES BOONE AND MCCALL IN HIS STEAD WITH A LITTLE CULTURAL DIVERSION?

THAT WIDGERING, CHOWDERHEADED GRANDSON A MINE IS OFF ON A **FOOL'S** ERRAND, BOY! EVER'BODY KNOWS THAT THERE **TI CHI**, CITY A GOLD, IS A **FAIRY TALE!**

AS FER CULTURAL DIVERSION...I GOT **ALL** THE CULTURAL DIVERSION I **NEED** 'TWEEN THESE TWO COVERS!



GLORIOSKIE, ROBOT! WHAT'S THAT UNGOPPLY **HOWL?**

IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE BEIN' **ATTACKED** BY A HORDE'A SEX-STARVED SCREAMIN' MEEMIES!



THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR **ALARM**, SIR. IT IS MERELY MASTER RESTIN BEING PAGED BY THE **PENTAGON**.

PENTAGON, OCTOGON, HEXAGON...IT DON'T MAKE NO NEVERMIND TWE WHAT TH'VARMINT'S **SHAPE** IS, BOY! IF HE'S GONNA WAIL LIKE A BANSHEE IN HEAT, HE'S GONNA DO IT THROUGH BRAN NEW .45 CALIBER **VENTILATION HOLES!**



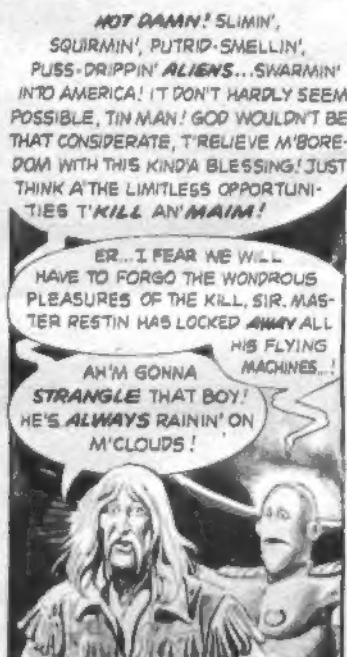
ROBOT, THIS IS GENERAL WAXTON T. BEAN. SUM-MON YOUR MASTER... **QUICKLY**. I HAVE A MATTER OF PRESSING **URGENCY** WHICH I MUST DISCUSS WITH HIM.

I'M SORRY, GENERAL, BUT MASTER DANE IS **INDISPOSED** AT THE MOMENT. MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?



INDISPOSED!? WE HAVE REPORTED **ALIEN** SIGHTINGS THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA EVER-GLADES...! WE'VE GOT WHOLE COMMUNITIES IN **PANIC**...! WE'VE A STATE OF NATIONAL **EMERGENCY** ON OUR HANDS... AND YOUR MASTER IS **INDISPOSED!?**

YOU GET HIM **UN-**DISPOSED, YOU SURLY TIN HEAP, AND TELL HIM THE **PRES-**IDENT HIMSELF WANTS HIS FLANK IN FLORIDA...**ON THE DOUBLE!** WE NEED DANE'S EXPERTISE IN **ALIEN** ENCOUNTERS!



NOT DAMN! SLIMIN', SQUIRMIN', PUTRID-SMELLIN', PUSS-DRIPPIN' **ALIENS**...SWARMIN' INTO AMERICA! IT DON'T HARDLY SEEM POSSIBLE, TIN MAN! GOD WOULDN'T BE THAT CONSIDERATE, T'RELIEVE M'BOREDOM WITH THIS KIND'A BLESSING! JUST THINK A'THE LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES T'**KILL AN'MAIM!**

ER...I FEAR WE WILL HAVE TO FORGO THE WONDROUS PLEASURES OF THE KILL, SIR. MASTER RESTIN HAS LOCKED **AWAY** ALL HIS FLYING MACHINES...! AH'M GONNA **STRANGLE** THAT BOY! HE'S **ALWAYS** RAININ' ON M'CLOUDS!

THE WATER IS COOL AND SWEET. IT SOOTHES **RESTIN'S** DRY, DUST-COATED THROAT AND **DROWNS** THE HORRIBLE THIRST THAT HAD WHOLLY CONSUMED HIS BEING. YET, EVEN AS HIS INSIDES REJOICE AT THE LIFE-GIVING MOISTURE, HIS MIND SCREAMS THAT SOMETHING IS **WRONG**. THE SULFURIC UNDERTASTE IN THE WATER SHOULD NOT BE!

AND THEN, AS IF TO CONFIRM HIS FIRST GNAWING RANGS OF DANGER... HE GLIMPSES A **ROTTING PROJECTILE** JUTTING FROM THE WELL, AND **GASPS** IN STILLBORN HORROR.



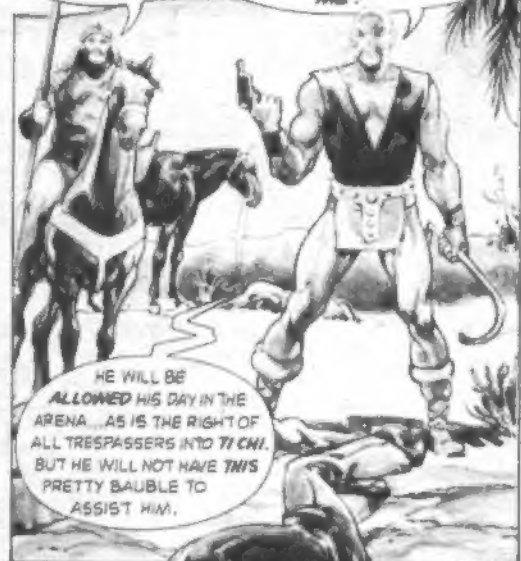
WHO IS THIS SLUTTERING CUR TO SULLY THE SACRED WATERS WITH HIS FOUL-SMELLING LIPS?

THWACK



YOU DID NOT LET THE INTRUDER DEFEND HIMSELF, KING CHO.

WOULD IT HAVE MATTERED IF I **HAD**, LI? UNLIKE YOU AND I, HE IS NOT A **WARRIOR** OF THE HOLY REALM. WHAT CHANCE WOULD HE HAVE HAD AGAINST **ME**?



THE MUSKY STENCH OF RIPS DECAY ASSAILS HIS NOSTRILS FIRST AND EVEN BEFORE **RESTIN** CAN OPEN HIS EYES, HIS EVER-PERCEPTIVE BRAIN **SCREAMS** TO HIM THAT HE IS IN A PLACE WHICH HAS SEEN MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF **DEATH**!



EITHER THAT WELLWATER WAS ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY **PROOF** WITH THE KICK OF A SLUGGARD MULE...



WHERE IS THIS PLACE, ANYWAY? AND HOW DID I **GET** HERE?

THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS DRINKING FROM THAT WATERHOLE...! THAT **POISON** WATERHOLE!



HEY! IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? LET ME OUT OF HERE, WILL YOU?



THEY WILL
COME FOR YOU IN
TIME, MY SON.

AND WHEN
THEY DO, YOU WILL
CURSE THE DAY WHICH
PROMPTED YOU TO SEEK
OUT THIS FOUL VERMIN
NEST.

HUHH!?

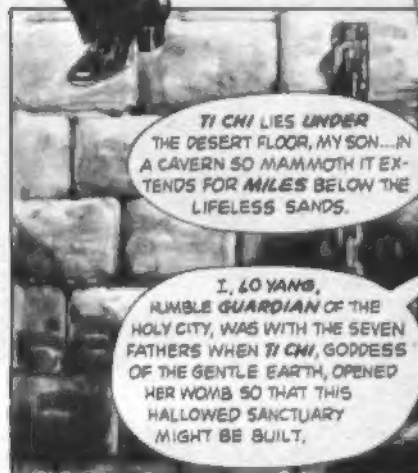
OLD MAN...!
I DIDN'T SEE YOU
STANDING THERE...! I
THOUGHT I WAS
ALONE...!



WE ARE **ALL** ALONE, MY SON...! YET, OUR FOOT-
STEPS MAY NOT STRAY FROM THE PATH WHICH DESTINY
PAVES BEFORE US. YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO **TI CHI** FOR
A GLORIOUS PURPOSE, **RESTIN DANE**. DO NOT **FALTER**
IN THAT WHICH YOU MUST DO.

THIS...THAT OUT
THERE IS **TI CHI**... THE
LEGENDARY GOLDEN
CITY?

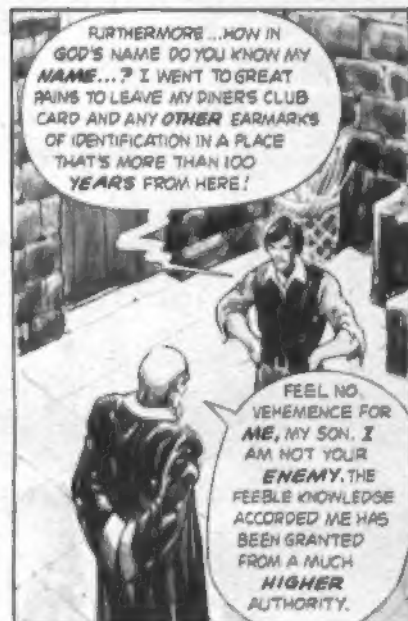
I WAS IN
THE MIDDLE OF A
BARREN DESERT--!



TI CHI LIES UNDER
THE DESERT FLOOR, MY SON...IN
A CAVERN SO MAMMOTH IT EX-
TENDS FOR MILES BELOW THE
LIFELESS SANDS.

I, **LO YANG**,
RUMBLE GUARDIAN OF THE
HOLY CITY, WAS WITH THE SEVEN
FATHERS WHEN **TI CHI**, GODDESS
OF THE GENTLE EARTH, OPENED
HER WOMB SO THAT THIS
HALLOWED SANCTUARY
MIGHT BE BUILT.

HOLD ON, FELLA...!
IF YOU'RE THE PURPORTED
"GUARDIAN" OF THIS BURG, WHY HAVE
YOU LOCKED ME IN THIS TOMB...?
AND WHAT'S ALL THIS FORTUNE COOKIE
NUMBO-JUMBO ABOUT DESTINY AND
THE ALLEGED "GRAND" PURPOSE FOR
WHICH I HAVE BEEN "SELECTED!"



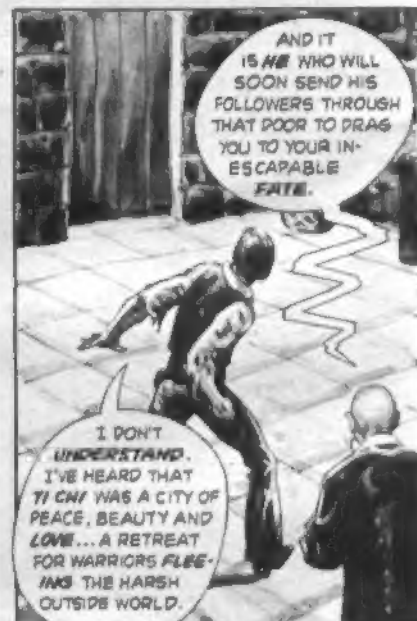
FURTHERMORE...HOW IN
GOD'S NAME DO YOU KNOW MY
NAME...? I WENT TO GREAT
PAINS TO LEAVE MY DINER'S CLUB
CARD AND ANY OTHER EARMARKS
OF IDENTIFICATION IN A PLACE
THAT'S MORE THAN 100
YEARS FROM HERE!

FEEL NO
VEHEMENCE FOR
ME, MY SON. I
AM NOT YOUR
ENEMY. THE
FEEBLE KNOWLEDGE
ACCORDED ME HAS
BEEN GRANTED
FROM A MUCH
HIGHER
AUTHORITY.



AND THOUGH I BE
GUARDIAN OF THE SACRED CITY, IT
IS NOT I BUT THE TYRANNICAL OVER-
LORD, **CHEKIANG**, WHO GOVERNS
WITH AN IRON FIST OF FEAR.

IT IS **HE** WHO HAS
SEQUESTERED YOU WITHIN
THESE WALLS.



AND IT
IS **HE** WHO WILL
SOON SEND HIS
FOLLOWERS THROUGH
THAT DOOR TO DRAG
YOU TO YOUR IN-
ESCAPABLE
FATE.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
I'VE HEARD THAT
TI CHI WAS A CITY OF
PEACE, BEAUTY AND
LOVE... A RETREAT
FOR WARRIORS FLEE-
ING THE HARSH
OUTSIDE WORLD.



HOW COULD THE
LEGENDS HAVE BEEN
SO WRONG, OLD MAN?
HOW...?

OLD
MAN?

GOOD GOD!
WHERE DID HE
GO?

THE CHAMBERS OF THE OVERLORD OF TICHU ARE LARGE BUT SIMPLE, AS BEFITTING
A WARRIOR PRINCE. YET, THEY OFFER LITTLE PLACE FOR THE TROUBLED MERCHANT
WHO SITS UPON TICHU'S SUBERNATORIAL THRONE.

WHY ARE YOU NOT
CONTENT, MY LORD? YOUR
WARRIORS ARE LOYAL. HE
HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SET TICHU
AND ITS WEALTH AT YOUR
FEET.

WHAT MORE COULD
ANY MAN WANT...SAVE
THE EMPEROR'S CROWN?

THE OUTWORLDER...
HE TROUBLES ME WITH HIS
DRESS. HIS NEAPONRY ARE
DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF
HIS COUNTRYMEN.

THE DIVINE
WRITINGS OF THE SEVEN
FATHERS PROPHESY THAT
SUCH A MAN WILL ENTER THE
CITY WHEN A DESPOT COM-
MANDS THE THRONE.

AND THE MANNER
IN WHICH YOU FOUND HIM...
DRINKING FROM THE SACRED
POOL OF DEATH YET SURVIVING
ITS ACID WATERS.



ALL ARE AWARE OF THE
DIVINE PROPHECIES, MY LORD. BUT
IT IS UNWISE TO FEAR EVERY
STRANGER FOUND AT THE
CITY'S PORTAL.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE OLD
WARRIORS PRAY FOR A SAVIOR.
THEY GRUMBLE FOR A RETURN TO THE
ANCIENT DAYS WHEN TICHU WAS AN
IDYLIC RETREAT. THEY DO NOT UNDER-
STAND THE CITY HAS OUTGROWN THE
OLD DAYS AND MUST NOW BE RULED
WITH AN IRON FIST.

GIVE THE OLD ONES TIME, MY
LORD. THEY WILL COME TO UNDER-
STAND THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS
BEST. THAT OR THEY WILL SLOWLY
DIE OFF. EITHER WAY YOU WILL
REMAIN OVERLORD.



BRING OUR BROKEN
HISTORY TO ME. LET US SEE
FOR OURSELVES THE MIRACLE
MAN WHO HAS BEEN LEFT IN OUR
DOORSTEP LIKE A CAST-
OFF BEGGAR'S BAG.

I WILL TAKE
MORE THAN THE FEEBLE
THREATS OF OLD MEN. OR THE
PRESENT OF ONE, ONE "SAVIOR"
TO ARREST FROM THE POWER
WHICH THE "LEGIONS" OF WARRIORS
HAVE PLACED IN YOUR GRASP.

YOU ARE
WISE FOR A WARRIOR.
HIS NAME IS THE SAVIOR
SHALL HAVE MY ARROW
WHILE YOU ARE AT
MY SIDE.



THE GROUND SEEMS TO TREMBLE AND THE LONG-PROPHESSED APOCALYPSE LOOMS DANGEROUSLY NEAR WHEN BISHOP DANE IS ANGERED, HIS UNLEASHED FURY BLINDS A SUBTLE WRINGING EMOTION AKIN TO FEAR DEEP WITHIN THE SLAVE INSIDES OF THE MAN-MADE MANSERVANT, MANNERS.

TIN MAN

ETHER YOU FIND ME A WAY
T'GET AT M'GRANDSON'S FLYIN'
MACHINES OR I'M GONNA PICKLE
THAT JAP-MADE MATATON PLASTIC
BRAN A YOURS IN A MAYON-
AISE JAR!

BUT...
BUT...
MASTER
BISHOP...

DON'T BUT ME, Y'UN-
PATRIOTIC TIN BUGABOO! Y'HEARD
WHAT THAT SNOT-NOSED GENERAL SAID
TH'PRESIDENT HESSELF 'S CALLIN'
ON A DANE FER HELP!

AN I'M GONNA
SEE T' T' TH DANES DON'T
LETH M AND THE MER-
CAN PEOPLE DOWN!

SIR MY HANDS ARE TIED!
THE ONLY UNSECURED AIRCRAFT IN
THIS ENTIRE DOMICILE IS MASTER
RESTING INCOMPLETED MOON
MINER!

THIS UNTRIED, UNTESTED, AND
STILL WEEKS AWAY FROM COMPLE-
TION! NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT IT
WAS DESIGNED TO HOVER IN THE LESS
STRENUOUS LUNAR GRAVITATIONAL EN-
VIRONMENT THERE IS NO TELLING HOW
IT WILL FUNCTION UNDER SEVERE
TERRAN INFLUENCES!

WHAT'S THE
WORST KIN HAPPEN,
Y'RATTLEBRAINED TIN
DULLARD...? Y'CRACK UP
5X OR SEVEN MILLION
DOLLARS WORTH A M'
GRANDSON'S LUNATIC
CONTRIVANCES!

SHEEEE
HELL SLAP Y' LIPS DE
YER T'N HEAD AN' CALL
YA NAUGHTY BOY!

AN' THAT'S A DANG SIGHT KINDER
THAN WHAT I'LL DO T' YA IF Y'DONT GET
ME T' THEM FLORIDA EVERGLADES..
PRONTO!

OHNN!
WHY DO YOU
ALWAYS DO
THIS TO
ME?

I HAVE
A TERRIBLE
FEELING ABOUT
ALL THIS, SIR!

LOOK AT IT THIS
MAY BOY YER DO N' IT
FER GOD AN' COUNTRY..

AN' T'AVOID
THE UNBRIDLED PAIN
A'REMOVIN' YER BULLET
HEAD FROM WHAT PASSES
FER LOWER HAUNCHES!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YER WORRIED ABOUT! THIS
HERE FLYIN' 'CHINE'S LIKE ALL
M'BOY'S CONTRACTIONS! ALLS
WE GOTTA DO IS PUSH A FEW
BUTTONS, TWIST A FEW
KNOBS, AND--!

YEEE-HAAA!
WE'S ON OUR WAY
T' THE LAND A
COTTON!

ER, MASTER
BISHOP, SIR! I REALLY
DO HATE TO BE THE ONE
TO BREAK THIS TO
YOU, BUT...

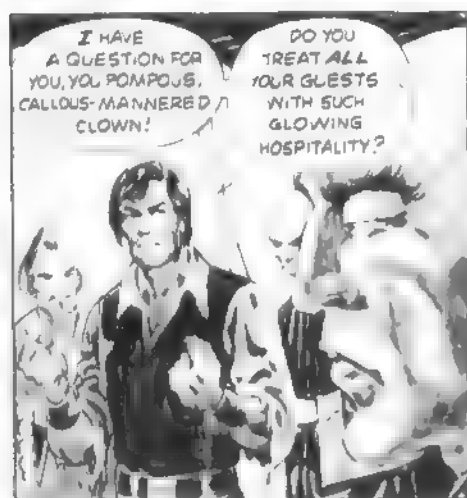
I
BELIEVE WE
ARE HEADED
DIRECTLY FOR
THE MOON!

IT TAKES A HALF DOZEN OF THE BOLDEST WARRIORS IN CHEKIANG'S LEGIONS TO SHACKLE AND DRAG THE FURIOUS MASTER OF TIME BEFORE THE MARY EMPEROR OF TI CHI. IT IS NOT THE STRANGER'S STRENGTH WHICH CAUSES THESE WARRIORS PRUDENCE, BUT THE MERE THOUGHT THAT HE JUST MIGHT BE THE PROPHESIED SAVIOR FOR WHOM THE OLD ONES HAVE SO LONG PRAYED.



I HAVE BUT ONE QUESTION FOR YOU, STRANGER. AND YOUR ANSWER HAD BETTER BE TO MY LIKING OR YOU WILL FIND MY WRATH INSUFFERABLE

WHO ARE YOU AND WHY HAVE YOU COME TO TI CHI?



I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU, YOU POMPOUS, CALLOUS-MANNERED CLOWN!

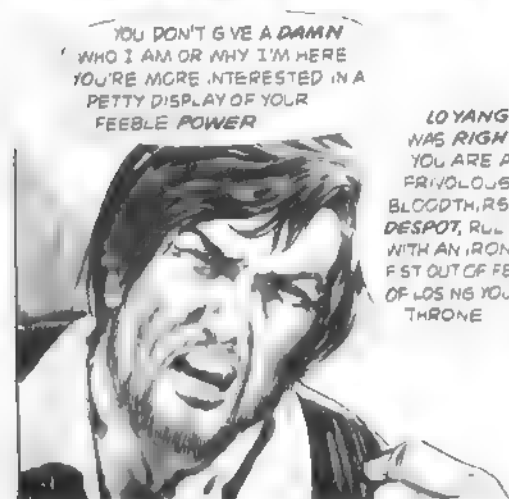
DO YOU TREAT ALL YOUR GUESTS WITH SUCH GLOWING HOSPITALITY?



IT IS A PITY, HING, THAT THE INTRUDER WISHES TO ENGAGE IN A DUEL OF WORDS DID I NOT APTLY WARN HIM OF THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD HIS RESPONSE DISPLEASE ME?

YOU UNFEELING DICTATORIAL HYPOCRITE...

THAT YOU DID, MY LIEGE!

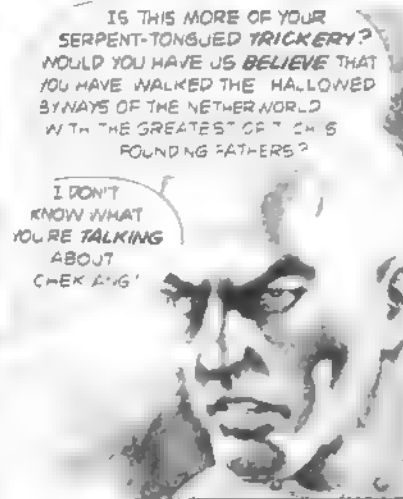


YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHO I AM OR WHY I'M HERE YOU'RE MORE INTERESTED IN A PETTY DISPLAY OF YOUR FEEBLE POWER

LO YANG WAS RIGHT YOU ARE A PRIVILEGED, BLOODTHIRSTY DESPOT, RULING WITH AN IRON FIST OUT OF FEAR OF LOSING YOUR THRONE

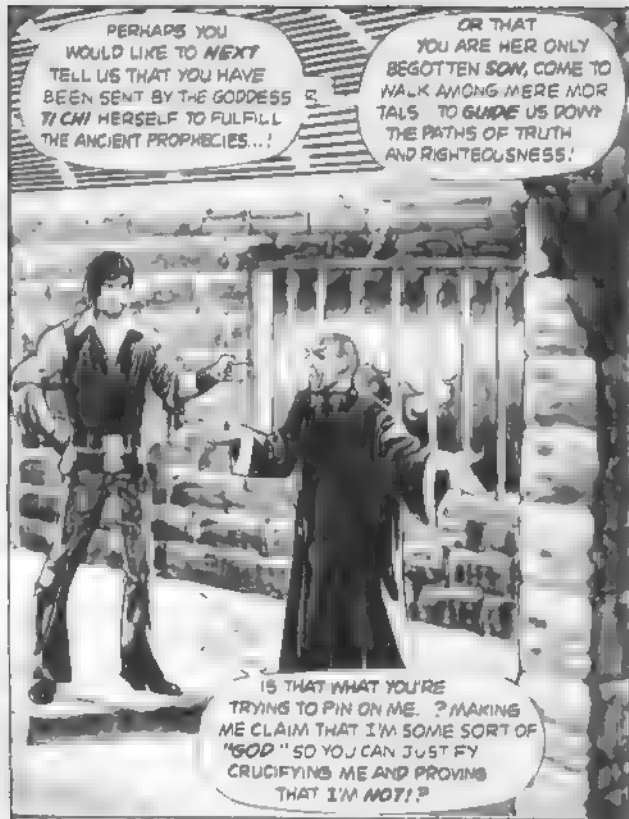


YOU SPEAK THE SACRED NAME OF LO YANG AS THOUGH YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE MASTER GUARDIAN



IS THIS MORE OF YOUR SERPENT-TONGUED TRICKERY? WOULD YOU HAVE US BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE WALKED THE HALLOWED BYWAYS OF THE NETHER WORLD WITH "THE GREATEST OF THE CHIEF'S FOUNDING FATHERS?"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT CHEK KING!



PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO NEXT TELL US THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE GODDESS TI CHI HERSELF TO FULFILL THE ANCIENT PROPHECIES...

OR THAT YOU ARE HER ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, COME TO WALK AMONG US, MOR TALS TO GUIDE US DOWN THE PATHS OF TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS!

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PIN ON ME? MAKING ME CLAIM THAT I'M SOME SORT OF "GOD" SO YOU CAN JUST FY CRUCIFYING ME AND PROVING THAT I'M NOT!?



YOU'RE NOT VERY ORIGINAL, ARE YOU, CHEKIANG? THAT SAME SCENARIO WAS PLAYED OUT WITH MUCH MORE THEATRICAL FLAIR SOME 1700 YEARS AGO!

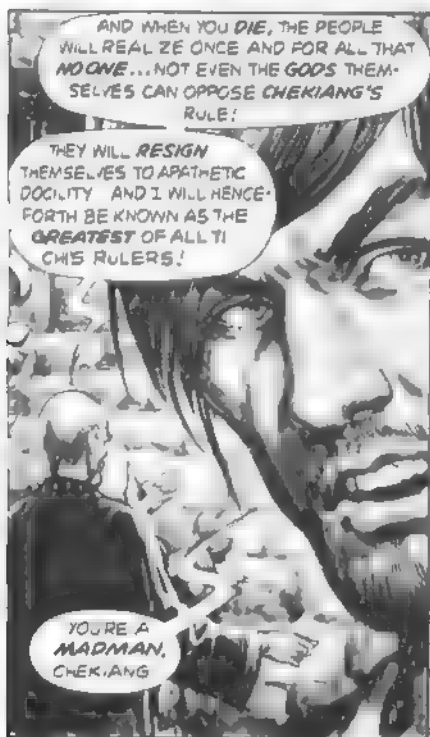
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A SACRIFICIAL SAVIOR, YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE! I'M NOT PLAYING YOUR LITTLE GAME!

WHETHER YOU OR I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE IS IRRELEVANT, MY FR END, IT IS WHAT THE ANCIENT WARRIORS OF TI CHI BELIEVE THAT IS OF IMPORT



AND AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME, THEY REQUIRE A "SAVIOR" TO FREE THEM FROM MY TYRANNICAL RULE!

SINCE YOUR DEATH IN THE ARENA OF REDEMPTION IS INEVITABLE IN ANY EVENT, YOU WILL BE THAT SAVIOR!



AND WHEN YOU DIE, THE PEOPLE WILL REAL ZE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT NO ONE...NOT EVEN THE GODS THEMSELVES CAN OPPOSE CHEKIANG'S RULE!

THEY WILL RESIGN THEMSELVES TO APATHETIC DOGILITY AND I WILL HENCE FORTH BE KNOWN AS THE GREATEST OF ALL TI CHI'S RULERS!

YOU'RE A MADMAN, CHEKIANG



BUT THIS IS ONE PAWN WHO WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY, WAITING TO BE SACRIFICED ON YOUR INSANE WHIM!

STOP! YOU FOOL! YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF!



BETTER I SHOULD WAIT FOR YOU TO DO THE JOB EH CHEKIANG?



OHMY BOY!
THIS IS ONE LONG-
MOTHER JUMP. FI
DONT BREAK MY FOOL
NECK. I MAY END UP
BELIEVING THAT I
ACTUALLY AM SOME
SORT OF GOD!



I JUST
HOPE THIS BAM
BOO ROOF BREAKS
MY FALL!

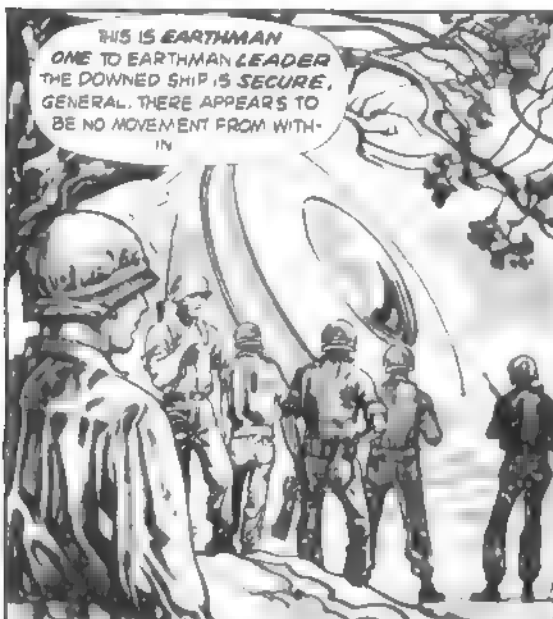
OOOOSH!



NO! A
GIFT FROM THE
HEAVENS!

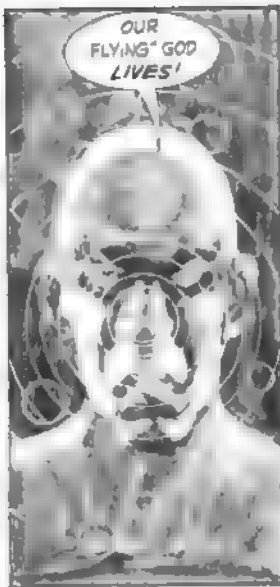
THERE HAVE BEEN
RUMORS AMONG CHEKIANG'S
GUARD THAT THE PROMISED SAVIOR
HAD COME. YET, NEVER DID I
EXPECT HIM TO CRASH THROUGH
MY ROOF!

CAN'T BE? IS
THIS THE SAVIOR HE
HAVE SO LONG BEEN
PROMISED?





SO!



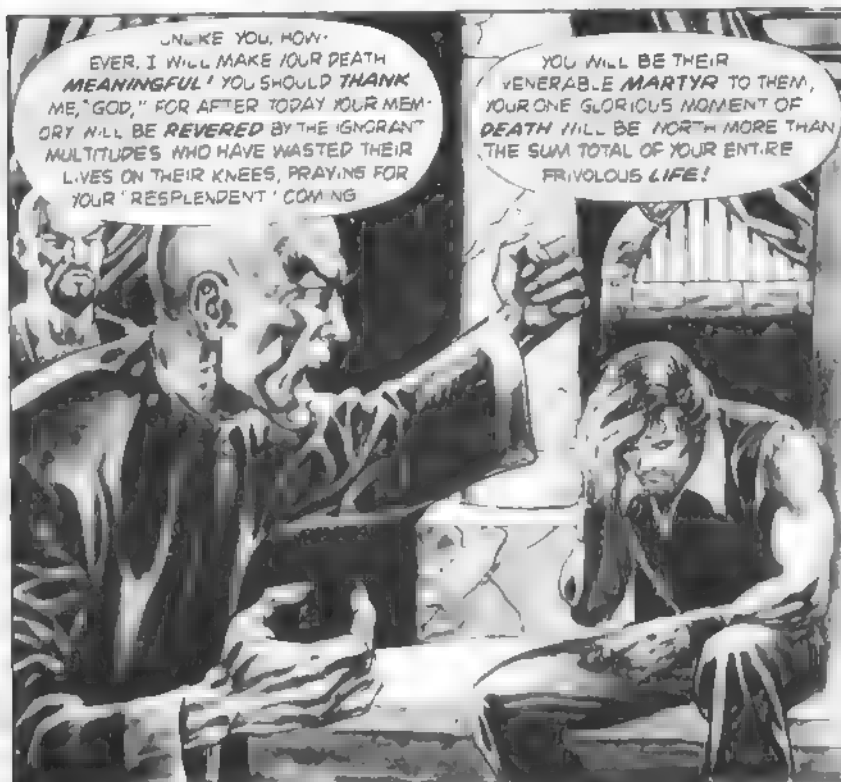
OUR
FLYING "GOD"
LIVES!



WHAT DID YOU HOPE
TO ACCOMPLISH, "GOD,"
BY THROWING YOUR LIFE TO
THE WIND?



IF YOU ARE SO
DETERMINED TO DIE, I
WILL DO ALL IN MY HUMBLE
POWER TO GRANT YOUR
REQUEST



UNLIKE YOU, HOW-
EVER, I WILL MAKE YOUR DEATH
MEANINGFUL! YOU SHOULD THANK
ME, "GOD," FOR AFTER TODAY YOUR MEM-
ORY WILL BE REVERED BY THE IGNORANT
MULTITUDES WHO HAVE WASTED THEIR
LIVES ON THEIR KNEES, PRAYING FOR
YOUR 'RESPLENDENT' COMING

YOU WILL BE THEIR
VENERABLE MARTYR TO THEM,
YOUR ONE GLORIOUS MOMENT OF
DEATH WILL BE WORTH MORE THAN
THE SUM TOTAL OF YOUR ENTIRE
FRIVOLOUS LIFE!



PREPARE THE
"GOD" FOR THE ARENA!
HE MUST LOOK MORE BEATIFIC
IN DEATH THAN EVER HE HAS
LOOKED IN LIFE!

PLEASE!
FORGIVE HIM!
HE KNOWS NOT
WHAT HE SAYS!
HE... HE'S NOT
RESPONSIBLE...!

NEITHER
IS A SCORPION BUT
THAT MAKES HIM NO
LESS DEADLY.

CHEK-ANG
IS A FRIEND
OF YOURS. I TAKE
IT?



I AM LING CHEKIANG
HE SAYS MY FATHER HE HAS
BEEN ILL WITH POWER SINCE HE LEFT
OUR HOME IN CHINA'S KWEIYANG
PROVINCE

THAT IS WHEN MY
MOTHER DIED AT THE HANDS
OF THE EMPEROR'S SON

I'M VERY
SORRY FOR YOU BUT
WHY TELL ME
THIS?



WHY DOES
THE DAUGHTER OF THE
MASTER OF T'CH WASTE
HER TIME WITH A CON-
DEMNED GOD?

MY FATHER NOR I
BELIEVE YOU TO BE A GOD. YOU ARE
BUT A MAN. UNLIKE THE MEN OF T'
CHI, BUT A WARRIOR IN A DIFFERENT
MORE SUBTLE WAY, I SENSE.



IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME THAT YOU UNDERSTAND FOR YOU ARE THE "GOD" OF THE MOMENT, AND THEREFORE **USEFUL** TO THOSE WHO WOULD MANIPULATE YOU TO THEIR OWN ENDS.

DAMMIT!
I'M NOT A GOD!
MY NAME IS RESTIN DANE, AND I COME FROM---



I COME FROM A PLACE FAR DIFFERENT THAN THIS! WHERE MEN ARE TREATED WITH **RESPECT** AND NOT CAGED LIKE **ANIMALS!**

ALL MY LIFE I'VE HEARD THAT **TI CHI** WAS SUCH A PLACE AN IDYLIC **SANCTUARY** FROM **BARBARISM** A **TIBETAN** RETREAT IN THE HEART OF **AMERICA!**

AND HERE I FIND THAT THE **LEGENDARY** **GOLDEN** WALLS ARE NOT **GOLD** AT ALL BUT CONSTRUCTED OF THE SAME **STONE** THAT LINES YOUR FATHER'S **HEART!**

ONCE LONG AGO...
TI CHI WAS AS YOU SAY



IT WAS A **HAVEN** FOR **NEARY** **WARRORS** FOR **MEN** **SICK** OF **HUIJIAN** **WARS**, **HUMAN** **SUFFERING**, AND **HUMAN** **DEATH!**

ONCE, THE CITY WAS FILLED WITH **MEN** WHO **FLED** THE **RAMPANT** **SAVAGERY** OF THEIR **ORIENTAL** **HOMELAND** WHO HAD **ABANDONED** THE **SWORD** AND TURNED TO **PRAYER**, **INNER** **SPECULATION** AND **CONTENTMENT**

THE **SEVEN** **FATHERS** WHO **FOUNDED** **TI CHI** WERE SUCH **MEN** AND THEY WOULD **ALLOW** **NONE** INTO THE CITY WHO HAD NOT **RELINQUISHED** THEIR **WEAPONS**.

BUT THE TIME OF THE **SEVEN** **FATHERS** IS MORE THAN **FIVE** **CENTURIES** **PAST!** THE CITY HAS **GROWN** AND **BECOME** AN **UNDERGROUND** **REFUGE** FOR **THIEVES**, **MURDERERS** AND **CONARDS** SEEKING **MATERIAL** **LUSTS** WHILE **AVOIDING** THE **EMPEROR'S** **JUSTICE**



IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF MY FATHER THAT **TI CHI** HAS BECOME A **CESS** **POOL**...

YET IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS **KIND** THAT THE **BEAUTY** OF THE CITY'S "**GOLDEN**" WALLS HAS **LOST** ITS **ONCE** **BRIGHT** **SHEEN**.



OH, HOW I HAVE GROWN TO **LOATHE** **TI CHI** AND MY FATHER **DESPITE** THE **SICKNESS** WHICH IS **SLOWLY** **DESTROYING** THEM BOTH!

IF ONLY YOU WERE A **GOD**, YOU COULD **HEAL** THEM **BOTH**...MAKE ALL AS IT **ONCE** WAS!



IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A **MAN** OR A **GOD** TO **PURIFY** THE **STENCH** OF **TI CHI**!

IT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO, **LING** YOU AND THE **PEOPLE** WHO **LIVE** **HERE**!



WE CAN DO IT WITH YOUR HELP. IF YOU WILL LEAD US, THE OLD WARRIORS WILL LISTEN TO YOU! THEY WILL BELIEVE IN YOU! YOU HAVE FULFILLED THE PROPHECIES...! IT IS YOUR DESTINY!

IN ESSENCE, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT YOU WISH TO MANIPULATE ME TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY GODLY MYSTIQUE!

IT IS SO BUT I WISH ONLY TO SPIRIT MY FATHER AWAY FROM THIS EVIL PLACE!

I WISH TO RETURN WITH HIM TO OUR HOMELAND, WHERE I KNOW HE WILL BE HEALED!

YEAH! SO PEOPLE KEEP TELLING ME!

WHAT IS YOUR DECISION, "GOD?"

HUHH?



TELL US THAT YOU ARE WITH US THAT YOU WILL HELP IN OUR CAUSE!

HURRY...! WE MUST HAVE YOUR ANSWER BEFORE WE ARE DISCOVERED!

HOW CAN I REFUSE? YOU HAVE THE ONLY "KEY" OUT OF HERE!



INGENUOUS...! CHEKIANG'S PALACE IS HONEYCOMBED WITH SECRET PASSAGES! THAT MUST BE HOW THE OLD MAN SLEPPED IN AND OUT OF MY CELL...

HE ACTUALLY HAD ME BELIEVING IT WAS SOME KIND OF MYSTICAL TRICK!

OF WHAT OLD MAN DO YOU SPEAK, MY "GOD?"

SURELY YOU KNOW HIM HE SAID HIS NAME WAS LO YANG!



CAN'T BE? TRULY YOU HAVE SPOKEN WITH LO YANG IN THE FLESH? BUT HE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS!

OH, C'MON! DON'T YOU PEOPLE PULL THAT SPOOK STUFF ON ME, TOO? HE MUST BE ONE OF YOU 'OLD GUY, BALD SPORTS A BEARD DOWN TO HERE! ALWAYS SPEAKS LIKE HE'S READING VERBATIM FROM CONFUCIUS!

IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO BLASPHEME THE NAME OF THE GREATEST OF ALL T'CHI'S FATHERS!

IF THE SAVIOR CLAIMS TO HAVE COMMUNERATED WITH LO YANG, THEN IT IS OURS TO BELIEVE!



LOOK! ONCE
AND FOR ALL I AM
NOT A SAVIOR! THE
NAME IS RESTIN DANE
NOT JESUS CHRIST!

IN NO
MIRACLE
WORKER I AM
JUST A MAN I'LL
FIGHT SOE BY SOE
WITH YOU UN-
TIL--!

MY LIFE HAS
ENDED HERE
AND THEN, I
WON'T BE ABLE
TO STAY ANY
LONGER

IF YOU NEED A
FIGUREHEAD AROUND WHICH
TO RALLY YOUR CAUSE FINE!
I'LL BE IT JUST AS LONG AS EVERY-
ONE HERE IS AWARE THAT I AM NO
DEITY, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO BE
NAILED TO A CROSS FIGURATIVELY
OR LITERALLY IN PRETENSE
OF BEING ONE!



I WILL
BE AS YOU
WISH FOR END
RESTIN DANE
TO US YOU
WILL BE BUT
A MAN!

BUT TO
THE ANCIENT
WARRIORS WHO
YEARN FOR THE
TICK OF OLD
YOU WILL BE
MUCH MORE!

CHRIST!



COME WE HAVE
MUCH TO DO, MY LORD! LET US
SCAMONG THE OLD WARRIORS AND
THE RICH AND PREPARE THEM
FOR THE GLORIOUS NEW JOURNALS
YOUR COMING PRESENTS

JUST
TELL ME WHAT
YOU WANT ME TO DO
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT
WALKING ON WATER OR
PARTING THE SEA, I
SHOULD BE FINE!



YOU NEED
DO NOTHING,
RESTIN DANE BUT
MINGLE AMONG
OUR PEOPLE.

WORD OF
YOUR ARRIVAL HAS
PRECEDED
YOU!

IN THE STREET OUTSIDE THE MEETING PLACE OF THE CONSPIRATORS, DECEIT AND TREACHERY ARE BREWED LIKE MAGGOTS ON A WARM CARCASS. THE 'MIRACULOUS' ESCAPE OF THE 'SAVIOR' FROM BONDAGE, AND HIS SUBSEQUENT RECAPTURE AND CRUCIFIXION, ARE BUT THE FINAL PROPHECIES WHICH MUST BE FULFILLED IN THE OVERLORD'S INSANE PLOT TO CRUSH HIS OPPRESSION.



SO THIS IS
THE 'XPER'S' NEST WHERE
MY ADVERSARIES PLOT MY DOWN-
FALL! AND WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED
THAT MY OWN DAUGHTER IS
AMONG THEM?

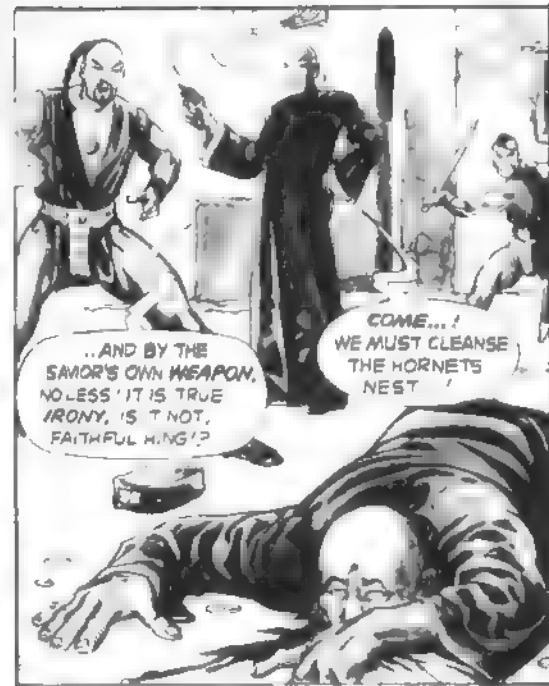
GIVE OUR 'JUDAS' HIS GOLD,
WHO SINCE IT HAS BEEN WHO ALLOWED
THE WOULD BE REDEEMER'S ESCAPE
WE NEEDED HIM NOT, SAVE TO FILL THE
MAJOR ROLE OF TRAITOR AS HAS
FORETOLD BY THE PROPHECIES



KACHOW!



UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, HIS PASSING WILL BE BUT THE FIRST OF MANY IN THE GREAT PURGE WHICH IS TO FOLLOW!



...AND BY THE SAVOR'S OWN WEAPON, NO LESS! IT IS TRUE IRONY, IS IT NOT, FAITHFUL KING?

COME...! WE MUST CLEANS THE HORNETS NEST!



AGHHH!

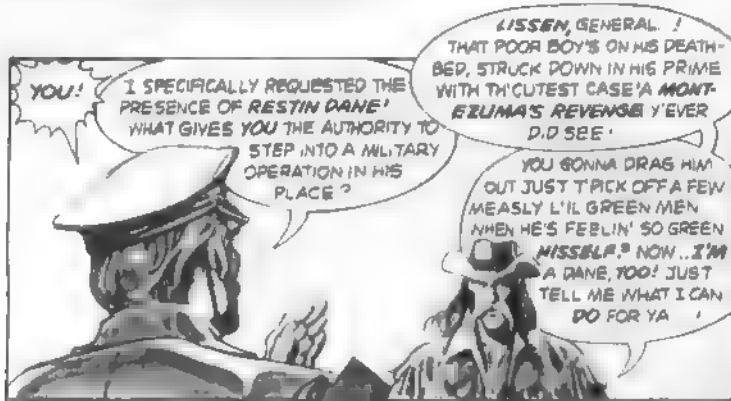
KRAKK!

MY FATHER...! HE HAS FOUND US!



INDEED, DAUGHTER!

AND, AS YOU MUST BY NOW BE AWARE THE TIME IS AT HAND FOR THE FINAL ACT IN OUR DESULTORY DRAMA TO COME TO A DREARY CLOSE.



YOU!

I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THE PRESENCE OF RESTIN DANE! WHAT GIVES YOU THE AUTHORITY TO STEP INTO A MILITARY OPERATION IN HIS PLACE?

LISTEN, GENERAL! THAT POOR BOY'S ON HIS DEATH-BED, STRUCK DOWN IN HIS PRIME WITH TH' CUTEST CASE'A MONT-EZUMA'S REVENGE Y'EVER D'D SEE!

YOU GONNA DRAG HIM OUT JUST T' PICK OFF A FEW MEASLY L'IL GREEN MEN WHEN HE'S FEELIN' SO GREEN MISSLE? NOW... I'M A DANE, TOO! JUST TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO FOR YA!



I I DIDN'T REALIZE! I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE MY CALLOUSNESS IF YOU'RE A RELATIVE OF RESTIN DANE, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME HERE, OF COURSE!

JUST LEAD ME T' THE MARTIANS, FLYBOY! I MEAN TH' TIN MAN HERE'LL DO TH' REST!



WELL...ER WE HAVEN'T EXACTLY SEEN ANY MART- I MEAN ALIENS YET!

BUT WE DO HAVE ONE OF THEIR SHIPS AS YOU CAN SEE



WHOOEEE! IF I DIDN'T KNOW NO BETTER, I'D SWEAR A GRAND-SON HAD A HAND IN BUILDIN' THIS HERE MARTIAN FLYIN' CHINE!

YOUR BOYS MUSTA DONE SOME FANCY SHOOTIN' T' BRING IT DOWN!

WELL, UH, SIR...! MY BOYS DIDN'T ACTUALLY SHOOT IT DOWN, YOU SEE--!

THEY, UH--! WELL THE TRUTH IS, THEY MORE OR LESS SORT OF JUST FOUND IT HERE!

WHAT'?



NOT FAR AWAY, IN A RAM-SHACKLE CABIN, FILLED WITH THE WARMTH OF HUMAN GOODWILL... A MAN WHO CAN NEITHER SPEAK NOR HEAR OPENS HIS HEART AND HIS HOME TO A TRAVELER FROM ACROSS THE UNIVERSE...

YOU ARE KIND... TO HELP ME

WELL I'LL BE--! YOU'RE TALKING TO ME WITH YOUR MIND!

YOU YOU REALLY ARE FROM THE STARS, AREN'T YOU?



I AM KRING'DZEE. EN SSARY. FROM THE STELLAR BROTHERHOOD

I HAVE COME TO WELCOME YOUR PEOPLE, AMONG

AMONG YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



YOU HAVE SENT PROBES... TO THE STARS IN SEARCH OF YOUR BROTHERS. WE WELCOME... YOU AMONG US FELLOW TRUTH-SEEKER AND STAR-TRAVELER



INCREDIBLE! YOU'RE A DIPLOMAT FROM THE HEAVENS, SENT TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH HUMANKIND

YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CREATURE EVER TO SET FOOT ON THIS EARTH... AND HERE YOU END UP WITH A DEAF AND DUMB RECLUSE LIKE ME!



TELL ME, "SAVOR"
DID YOU UTILIZE YOUR FREEDOM
TO RALLY YOUR DISCIPLES AROUND
YOU?

DO ENOUGH OF THEM
BELIEVE YOU TO BE THE
MESSIAH TO MAKE YOUR
MARTYRDOM WORTH-
WHILE?

WHAT WILL YOU
DO, CHEKIANG, WHEN MY
DEATH GOES UNNOTICED AMONG
YOUR PEOPLE? WILL YOU SACRIFICE
ANOTHER "SAVOR?" AND ANOTHER
...UNTIL YOU CONVINCE YOURSELF
THAT YOU'RE A POWERFUL
RULER?

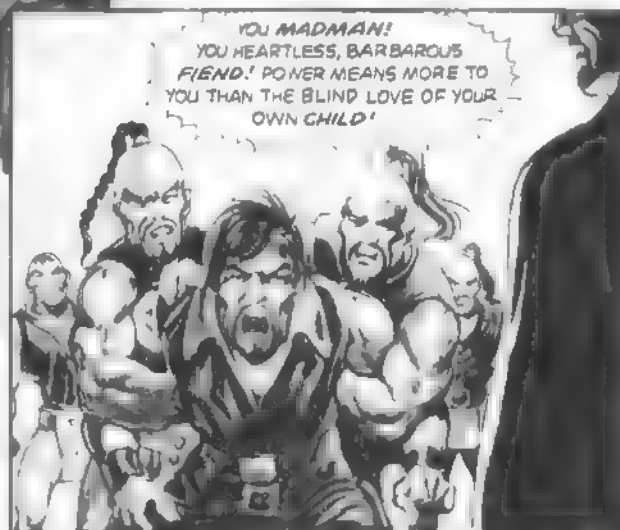


AS A
WISE RULER I WILL DO
WHAT I MUST TO ASSURE
THE CONTINUED SUPREMACY
OF THE OVERLORD AND THE IN-
TERNAL TRANQUILITY OF
TI CHI



EVEN IF THAT
MEANS SACRIFICING
YOUR DAUGHTER BECAUSE
SHE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE
COMPANY OF WOULD-BE
TRAITORS, EH, CHEKIANG?

TRAITORS
MUST BE
PUNISHED. SHE
WILL DIE AT
YOUR SIDE



YOU MADMAN!
YOU HEARTLESS, BARBAROUS
FIEND! POWER MEANS MORE TO
YOU THAN THE BLIND LOVE OF YOUR
OWN CHILD!



I BE-
LIEVE IT'S
TIME FOR THE
SAVOR TO MED-
ITATE. WE MUST
ALLOW HIM QUIET
SECLUSION WHERE
HE MAY BE ALONE
WITH HIS GOD
FREE TO ASK
FORGIVENESS
FOR HIS SINS
AGAINST THE
OVERLORD.



HA HA HA! YOU'LL FIND NO
TRAP DOORS OR HIDDEN PANELS IN
HERE, "SAVOR!" LET US SEE AN-
OTHER OF YOUR "MIRACULOUS"
ESCAPES!



THEY HAVE TREATED YOU HARSHLY, MY SON

YOU AGAIN

JUST WHO ARE YOU OLD MAN? AND HOW DO YOU GET IN HERE THIS TIME?



I AM WHO I HAVE SAID, MY SON LO YANG, FATHER AND GUARDIAN OF THE GODDESS TI CHI'S HOLY CITY

NOW I CAME TO BE SO UNIMPORTANT KNOW ONLY THAT I AM, FOR THE STAY CHILDREN'S HOUR OF GREATEST NEED



YOU AND I HAVE A GRAVE TASK BEFORE US THE GOLDEN CITY IS GOLD NO LONGER TI CHI NEEDS BE CLEANSED

I FEAR THE JOB IS TOO GREAT FOR EITHER OF US. YOUR CHILDREN BLINDLY FOLLOW A MAD-MAN



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW CHEK IANG CAN WIELD SUCH POWER OVER THEM



IN THE HOME-LAND, CHEK IANG WAS CAPTAIN OF THE IMPERIAL WARRIORS. HE WAS ALSO ELDEST OF THE EMPEROR'S SONS

HE LOST A KINGDOM AND HIS FATHER'S FAVOR WHEN HE SLEW HIS BROTHER WHO HAD FORCIBLY TAKEN CHEK IANG'S WIFE

FLEEING HIS FATHER'S JUSTICE HE CAME TO TI CHI WITH HIS MOST LOYAL LEGIONS, AND TOGETHER THEY HAVE BROUGHT UPON THE CITY ITS DARKEST HOUR.

I DON'T REALIZE CHEK IANG IS OF NOBLE BLOOD HE'S ALREADY LOST ONE KINGDOM AND IS PARANOID OVER LOSING ANOTHER!



HAD HE BUT GIVEN UP HIS SWORD AND SOUGHT INNER PEACE, MY SON, CHEK IANG WOULD HAVE BEEN WELCOME HERE

YET, HE DEFILED THE TEMPLE THAT IS MY CITY, POLLUTED IT WITH HIS TERRIBLE VICES, AND NOW CHEK IANG MUST BE EXPELLED!

WITH THIS TALISMAN, I BESTOW UNTO YOU THE POWER TO RIGHT THE INJUSTICES WITHIN TI CHI, MY SON.

WITH IT, THE WISDOM OF THE SEVEN FATHERS IS YOURS!



EVEN WITH YOUR WISDOM, I AM STILL ONLY ONE MAN AGAINST MANY.

HAVE NO FEAR, REST IN PAISE WITH THE GODDESS TI CHI, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



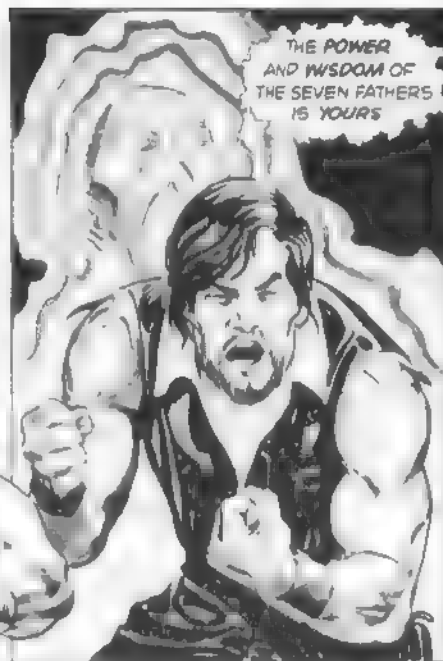
AND I, LO YANG, SHALL EVER BE AT YOUR SIDE



THUNDER GROWLS IN THE EARTH BENEATH HIS FEET. THE ROOF ABOVE HIM SEEMS TO PART, REVEALING THE INFINITE HEAVENS, SWIRLING MADLY IN AN INSANE COSMIC DANCE OF POWER. HIS LIMBS GROW WEIGHTED WITH STRENGTH. HIS MIND FLOODS WITH KNOWLEDGE, LIKE A STORM-SWEPT SEA HAMMERING AT THE CONFINING CLIFFS OF HIS CRANIAL DUNGEON. THE ALL-CONSUMING, OMNIPOTENT ELECTRIC ENERGY OF THE GODS, COURSES RHYTHMICALLY THROUGH HIS VERY BEING.

AND WESTON DANE, RATIONAL, LEVEL-HEADED SCIENTIST OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, FEELS HIS SCIENTIFIC IDEAS CRUMBLING TO DUST AS THE ESSENCE OF LO XANG, FOUNDER FATHER OF THE GLORIOUS CITY, FATHER OF THE SEVEN FATHERS... MOST GLORIOUS OF THE GLORIOUS WARLORDS... A MAN, A GOD DEAD FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS... SLIPS WITHIN HIM, BESTOWING KNOWLEDGE AND STRENGTH WHICH A MERE HUMAN HAD NEVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE.

AND SUDDENLY, THE MASTER OF ALL TIME UNDERSTANDS. HE IS THE PROPHESIED SAVIOR, PROMISED TO THE CHILDREN OF T'CHI SINCE THE CITY'S FIRST BREATH.





THE USUALLY QUIET SWAMP
TEEMS WITH HUMAN LIFE
AND ALTHOUGH HE CANNOT
HEAR IT, THE RECLUSE,
BJORN SWENSON, HAS
BECOME SUCH AN INTEGRAL
PART OF THE MARSH THAT
HE CAN FEEL ITS SUBTLE
CHANGE....!

I THINK WE'RE
ABOUT TO HAVE VISITORS,
KRING-DZEE. THE MILITARY MUST
HAVE TRACKED YOUR STAR-
SHIP ON ITS RADAR



I SHOULD GREET
...THEM 'WELCOME'.
THEM TO THE BROTHER-
HOOD

I DON'T KNOW,
KRING. MAYBE I SHOULD GO
OUT THERE FIRST. I'M NOT REAL
SURE HOW PEOPLE ARE GOING
TO REACT TO YOU

SERGEANT! SEND
ONE OF YOUR MEN BACK TO
GENERAL DEAN. TELL HIM WE'VE
FOUND A HOUSE OUT HERE IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE SWAMP. AND IT
JUST MIGHT BE THAT THOSE
ALLEN DEVILS ARE HOLED
UP IN IT



IT IS, MY
DUTY. I... MUST.
GO!

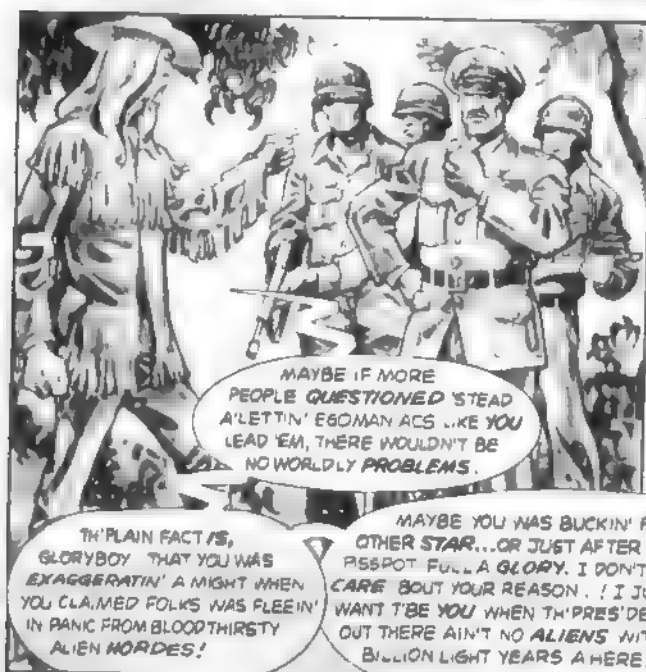
KRING! NO!
YOU CAN HARDLY
WALK.



I... MUST...
GIVE... YOUR LEADER...
THIS... MESSAGE... FROM...
THE... BROTHERHOOD, IT... IS...
A... PROMISE... OF... A...
WHOLE NEW... FUTURE.



WHY YOU
FEEBLE-MINDED OLD
TURD! WHO ARE YOU
TO CRITICIZE MY
LEADERSHIP?



MAYBE IF MORE
PEOPLE QUESTIONED 'STEAD
A'LETTIN' EGO MAN ACS LIKE YOU
LEAD 'EM, THERE WOULDN'T BE
NO WORLDLY PROBLEMS.

TH'PLAIN FACT IS,
GLORYBOY. THAT YOU WAS
EXAGGERATIN' A MIGHT WHEN
YOU CLAIMED FOLKS WAS FLEEIN'
IN PANIC FROM BLOODTHIRSTY
ALIEN NORDRES!

MAYBE YOU WAS BUCKIN' FOR AN-
OTHER STAR... OR JUST AFTER A WHOLE
PISSPOT FULL A GLORY. I DON'T KNOW NOR
CARE BOUT YOUR REASON. I JUST WOULDN'T
WANT T'BE YOU WHEN TH'PRES'DENT FINDS
OUT THERE AIN'T NO ALIENS WITHIN A
BILLION LIGHT YEARS A HERE!



KRING, LISTEN
TO ME! DON'T GO OUT THERE!
I... I KNOW HOW CRUEL HUMANS
CAN BE WHEN THEY'RE CON-
FRONTED WITH SOMEONE
WHO'S... DIFFERENT!

STAY! FOR JUST
A MOMENT! LET ME PREPARE
YOU FOR SOME OF THE NIGHT-
MARES YOU'RE GOING TO EN-
COUNTER ON MY WORLD!



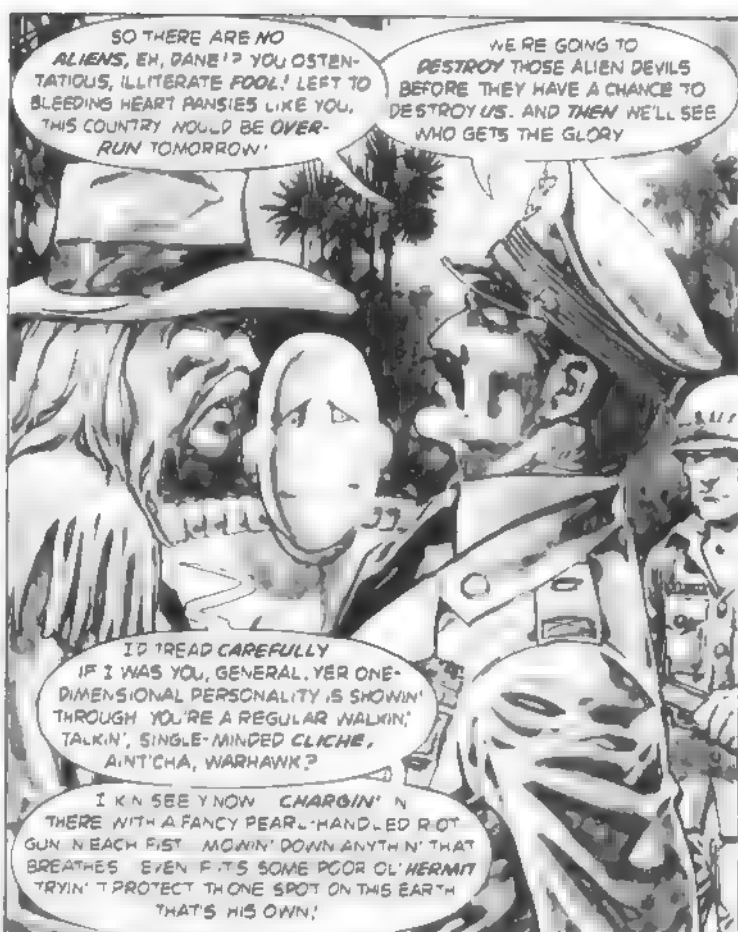
GENERAL
SIR! I THINK
WE'VE CORNERED
THE ALIENS! WE'VE
SCoured THE AREA,
AND THERE'S ONLY
ONE PLACE THEY
CAN BE!

IT'S A
SMALL SHACK
IN A MARSH CLEARING
JUST AROUND THAT
BEND.

GOOD WORK,
SERGEANT, TELL YOUR
C.O. I WANT THAT NOVEL
SURROUNDED WITH THE
HEAVIEST ARTILLERY
HE'S GOT.

NOTHING GOES IN
OR OUT OF THAT SHACK
WITHOUT MY SAY SO
UNDERSTOOD?

YES, SIR!

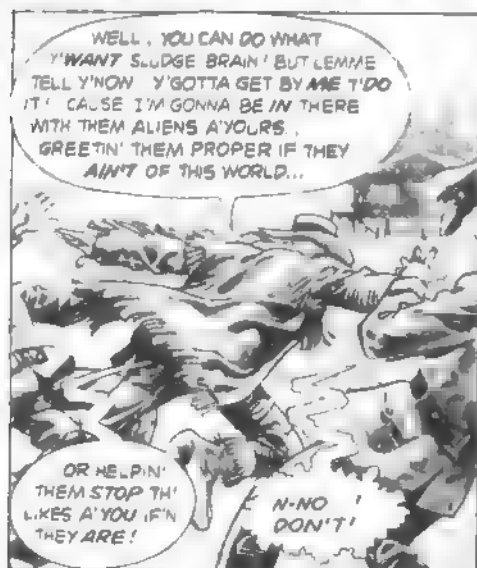


SO THERE ARE NO
ALIENS, EH, DANE? YOU OSTEN-
TATIOUS, ILLITERATE FOOL! LEFT TO
BLEEDING HEART FANSIES LIKE YOU,
THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE OVER-
RUN TOMORROW!

WE'RE GOING TO
DESTROY THOSE ALIEN DEVILS
BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO
DESTROY US. AND THEN WE'LL SEE
WHO GETS THE GLORY

I'D TREAD CAREFULLY
IF I WAS YOU, GENERAL. YER ONE-
DIMENSIONAL PERSONALITY IS SHOWIN'
THROUGH YOU'RE A REGULAR WALKIN'
TALKIN', SINGLE-MINDED CLICHE,
AINT'CHA, WARHAWK?

I KN SEE Y NOW CHARGIN' IN
THERE WITH A FANCY PEARL-HANDLED ROT
GUN IN EACH FIST MOWIN' DOWN ANYTHIN' THAT
BREATHES EVEN FITS SOME POOR OL' HERMIT
TRYIN' T PROTECT TH ONE SPOT ON THIS EARTH
THAT'S HIS OWN!



WELL, YOU CAN DO WHAT
Y'WANT SLUDGE BRAIN! BUT LEMME
TELL Y'NOW Y'GOTTA GET BY ME T'DO
IT! 'CAUSE I'M GONNA BE IN THERE
WITH THEM ALIENS A'YOURS.
GREETIN' THEM PROPER IF THEY
AIN'T OF THIS WORLD...

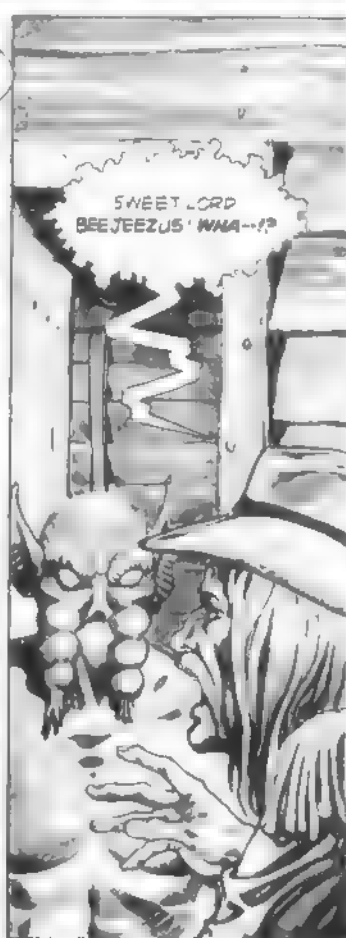
OR HELPIN'
THEM STOP TH'
LIKES A'YOU IFN
THEY ARE!

N-NO!
DON'T!



THEY'RE OUT THERE,
KRING, COMING FOR YOU. YOU'RE
STILL GOING AFTER ALL
THAT I'VE TOLD YOU?

FEAR
AND HOSTILITY ARE
NOT UNIQUE TO YOUR
PEOPLE...MY FRIEND.
COME, LET US...
WELCOME THEM...
TOGETHER



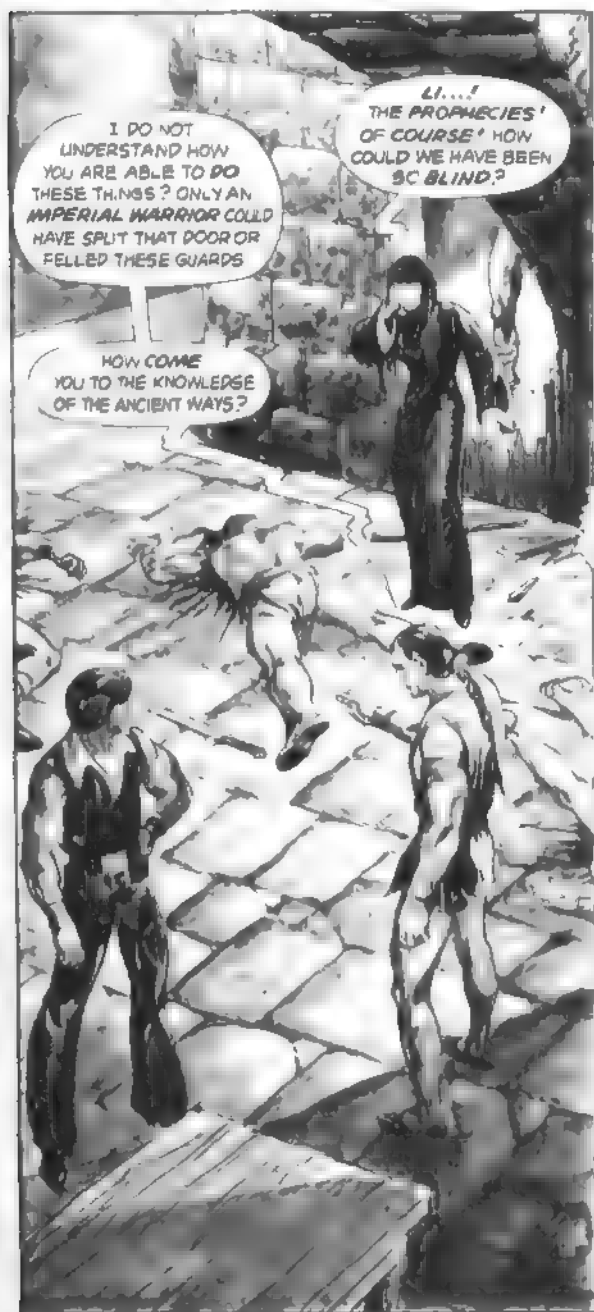
SWEET LORD
BEEJEEZUS! WHA--!?



Nooo



YOO-HOO!
YOU IN THE
STILTHOUSE
PUT ON
TH KETTLE
Y'GOT A CALLER
AT YER DOOR!



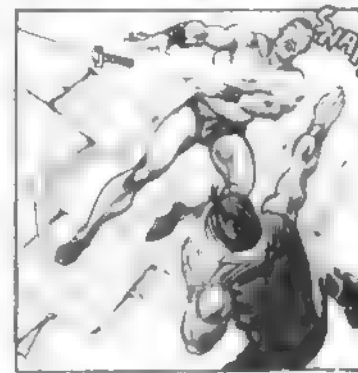
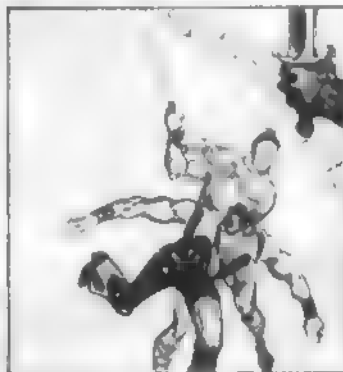
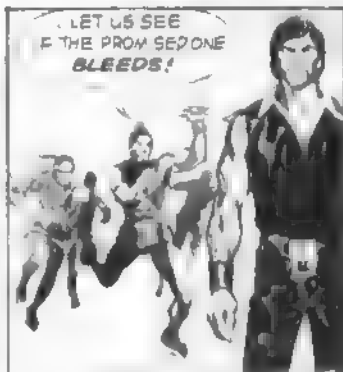
IT IS A
MOUSE! HE DARES
GIVE ORDERS TO
MEN?

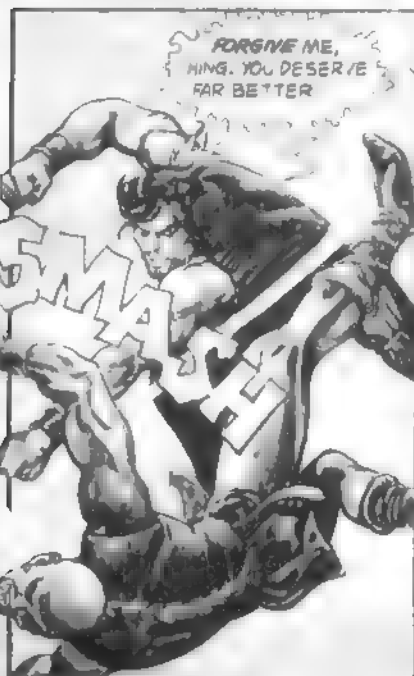
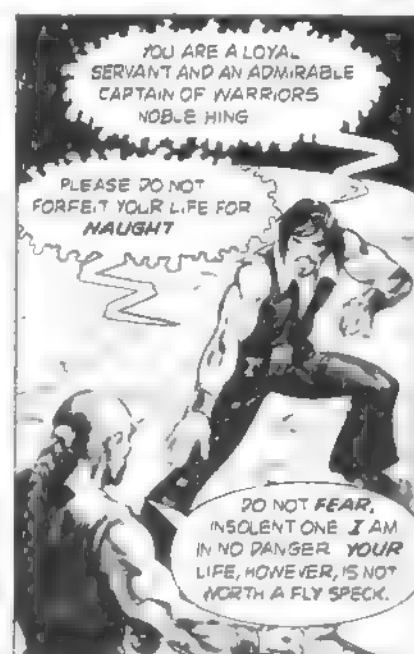
PERHAPS THE MOUSE
NEEDS TO BE TAMED
STAND
ASIDE... I AM
SHALL BE THE
BLADE HE TASTES!

TAKE LEAVE
OF THIS HOLY CITY,
WARRIORS. THERE IS
NAUGHT FOR YOU
HERE BUT DEATH

I BEG
OF YOU. DO NOT
FORCE MY HAND
ABANDON TI CHI
WHILE YET YOU
MAY.

HA HA HA!
THE MOUSE HAS SPIRIT!
PERHAPS IN HIS MADNESS HE
TRULY BELIEVES HE IS THE







FOOL! YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND? YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM?



THEN, BEHOLD, BLASPHEMOUS OVERLORD! LOOK UPON THE VISAGE OF THE GUARDIAN OF THE GODDESS! GOLDEN CITY!

N-NO! NOOOO!



LO YANG!
M-MASTER! F FOR-
GIVE ME! I DID
NOT KNOW I DID
NOT BELIEVE!

IN YOUR ARROGANCE
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL
YOU HAVE LEARNED YOUR YEARS
OF STUDY THE TIMELESS KNOW-
LEDGE OF THE SEVEN FATHERS HAS
BEEN LIKE SAND, SLIPPING FROM
THE SEVE THAT IS YOUR HAND



BUT BUT, MASTER
I I HAVE TRIED TO DO YOUR
WILL! I HAVE TRIED TO RULE
YOUR CITY WISELY! BUT BUT
THE FATES HAVE BEEN UNKIND
TO ME! SO MUCH INJUSTICE
HAS FALLEN IN MY PATH!



THE WORLD IS FULL
OF INJUSTICE, OVERLORD. IT IS
PLACED BEFORE YOU TO TEST YOUR
RESOLVE. YET, YOU HAVE PASSED
THE INJUSTICE ON TO OTHERS
AND IT IS TIME NOW FOR YOU
TO PAY!



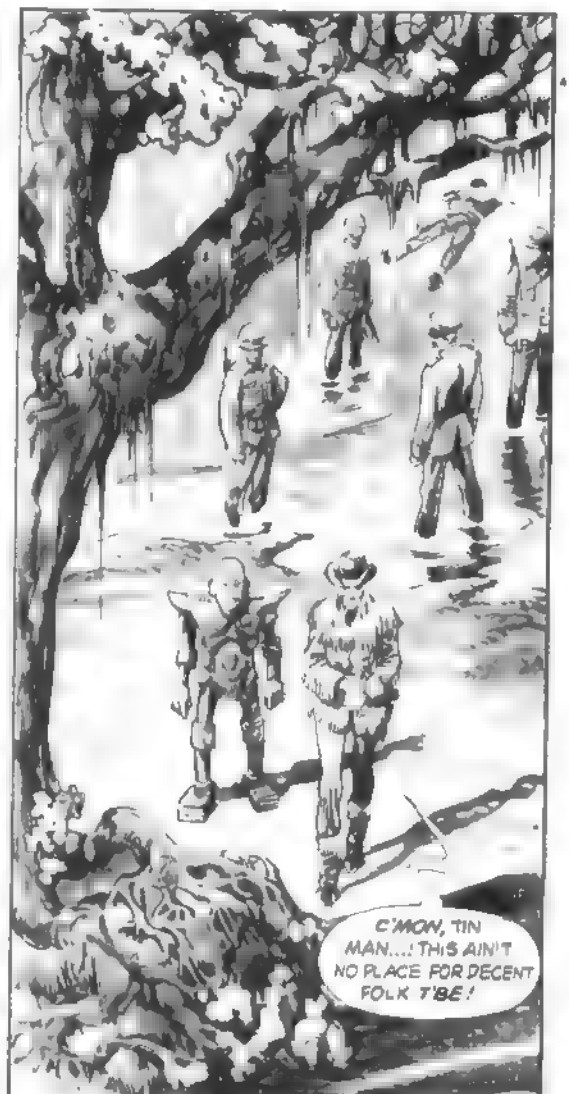
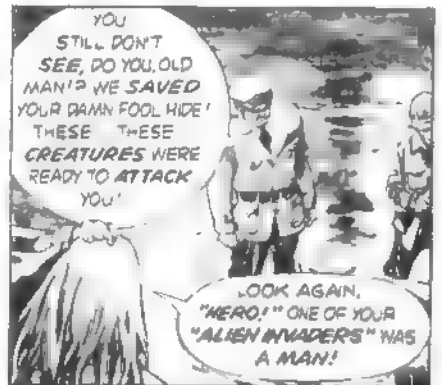
M-MASTER...!
PLEASE...I. BEG
...OF YOU!

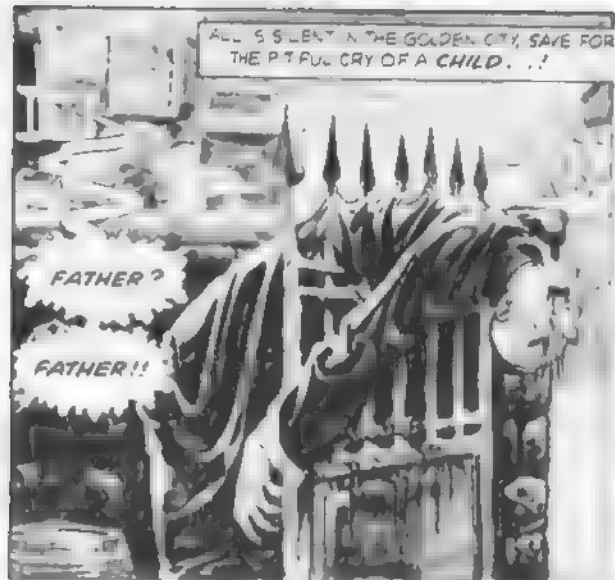


I BEG YOU...

AIEEEE

M-MY SON
NOOOO!





ALL IS SILENT IN THE GOLDEN CITY, SAVE FOR THE PITIFUL CRY OF A CHILD...

FATHER?

FATHER!!



THE REIGN OF THE OVERLORD IS ENDED. NOW COMES THE PAINFUL CHARGE OF INFORMING A GIRL THAT HER FATHER IS... DEAD.

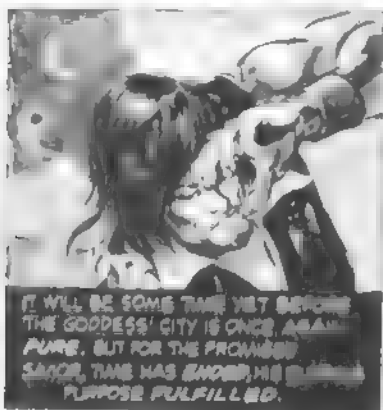
FATHER!!

LING
I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T SAVE
HIM



BUT, MERCIFULLY, THE SAVIOR, THE MAN OF ALL TIMES, SPARED THE GRIEVIOUS TASK. THOUGH THE OVERLORD IS GONE AND THE CLEANSING BEGUN, THERE ARE STILL LINGERING LICES TO BE EXPELLED FROM TI CHI.

MURDERER! DIE!
YOU HAVE SLAIN THE OVERLORD!



IT WILL BE SOME TIME YET BEFORE THE GODDESS' CITY IS ONCE AGAIN PURE. BUT FOR THE PROMISED SAVIOR, TIME HAS ENDED HIS PURPOSE FULFILLED.



HE MUST RETURN TO THE PLACE FROM WHENCE HE CAME...



LEFT TO WONDER IF THE GOLDEN CITY WAS MAMA'S OR LITTLE MAMA'S DREAM.

OOHHHH!



MASTER REST, SPEAK TO ME MASTER THIS IS YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT M-MANNERS



YOU HAVE BEEN GONE SO LONG, SR MASTER BISHOP AND I WERE WORRIED I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, BUT I SIMPLY HAD TO COME FIND YOU



AND OH, SR

I JUST CAN'T TELL YOU HOW OVERJOYED I AM TO SEE THAT YOU ARE WELL

YES AND I JUST



I HAD SO FEARED THAT IN YOUR DEERLYN YOU HAD PARTAKEN OF THESE SPOILED NATERS

POISON

MAYBE MAYBE I DID, MANNERS MAYBE IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM



SIR?

NOTHING, OLD FRIEND COME... LET'S GO HOME



IT'S GOING TO FEEL GOOD BEING IN A SAME WORLD AGAIN!

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

GOING FOR THE BUCKS

Everyone knew "Big Tony" back in the early 1970s. He'd pop in at conventions, scour the dealers tables and do a lot of megabuck buying. Old comic books, worthless or priceless. New comic books, any new comic books, usually in lots of several hundreds each. And fanzines, too. Even the ugly, hand-drawn fan sheets the fans themselves ignored. "Big Tony" bought everything and kept more than a few dealers and fanzine editors—myself included—in college tuition money.

"Big Tony" was also Mafia. He didn't say it outright, or course, but he never covered his trail very well, either. One day I followed the trail out to Long Island. The company that employed "Big Tony" also had another business, a profitable one. Pornography. Books, magazines, newspapers, film. You name it. "Big Tony's" company trafficked in it. The names at the top of "Big Tony's" corporation were big-name Mafia, too, and every few weeks they'd be arrested and have their names and faces splashed on the front page of *The Daily News*.

It didn't take much figuring to discover why the Mafia was into comics. Such an innocuous business was a great cover for the porn business—comics and sex magazines were sold side-by-side in the Mafia-controlled sex shops—and buying up comics for investment purposes was a great way to launder drug profits. Comic dealers and the Mafia are both renowned for their inability to produce business ledgers when the tax man calls.

But even knowing all this, I still thought "Big Tony" was pushing his luck with his multi-thousand copy stock of *Conan* #1. One day at his Long Island warehouse, only weeks after that comic hit the stands. I

found "Big Tony" bagging mint copies of *Conan* #1 and affixing \$5 price tags.

"Big Tony," I said, "you gotta be crazy. *Conan*'s still on the stands out of town. The thing's barely worth cover price. It'll never be worth \$5. The tax guys are sure to catch this scam."

"Hey stupid," he said sincerely, "stop being a fan. Comics are like every other specialty business. You create the demand—your own demand—then price the supply accordingly. If you keep telling people *Conan*'s worth \$5 or a bag of smack is worth \$5, they'll believe it's worth \$5. They'll buy it. Supply creates demand in markets like this."

"Big Tony's" economic models were based on the old Mafia axiom that says the supplier sets the price when he's supplying illicit goods and services. Surely, I thought, comics could hardly be priced like drugs or porn or prostitution.

Now it's 1979, less than nine years since *Conan* #1 first hit the stands. Mint copies are worth \$30. The rest of the comic market has followed suit and once worthless items command a small fortune. "Big Tony" has gone to wherever Mafia frontmen inevitably go, but his theories have proven correct.

Comic books no longer belong to you and me, the people who buy comics for

AT 3 OUNCES TO THE AVERAGE COMIC MAGAZINE:

FANTASTIC FOUR
NO. 1
IS WORTH MORE
THAN ITS WEIGHT
IN GOLD—

(\$343.86 PER OUNCE)

3 TROY OUNCES

enjoyment, for fun, to be entertained. They belong to the "investors." And investors value comics just as the Mafia values the under-the-table services it traditionally supplies. In comic books today the supplier creates the demand and then sets his own price. "Big Tony's" Mafia friends are out of comics—at least as far as I know—but everyone else has picked up their theories.

The hottest new publication in the comics field right now is the *Investors Newsletter*, a \$1 monthly newsletter published by a Midwestern comic-book dealer. There are no articles about comics, no comic art and no criticism of the form. There are, however, investing tips on comics news affecting comics' market conditions and "updated" prices that are rising faster than Bob Overstreet's annual *Comic Book Price Guide* can print them.

According to the newsletter, *Hulk* #1 is now worth \$400, almost double its 1978 *Price Guide* price. *Showcase* #4 now commands \$1,300, almost three times the price listed in last year's guide. *Fantastic Four* #1—worth about \$40 in 1973—is now worth \$1,200, twice its going price last year. The book of the year, the newsletter said, is *Reform School Girls*. Its present market value is \$2,300. The 1978 *Price Guide* lists it at \$360. It was worth \$7 in 1973, the year I stopped collecting.

Fandom" has even forsaken the good-old "Who's better, DC or Marvel?" controversy that has proven so enjoyable in years past. Today's biggest controversy is over the merits and value of a not-quite-a-comic called *Cancelled Comics Cavalcade*. Produced as a lark by some DC staffers after last year's publishing cutback, about three dozen copies of the book were "published" using a photocopy machine and a stapler. The stories and art inside were copies of cancelled material. One of the copies was given to Overstreet for inclusion in the *Price Guide*. The remainders went to the artists who produced the material.

Now investors are outraged. Is *Cancelled Comics Cavalcade* a comic book? If it is, what is it worth? \$50? \$100? \$1,000? How can Overstreet price the book fairly, when he has the only copy presently available? Where are comic books' investing ethics, they moan.

You can also tell the "fans" have been supplanted by "investors" by the tone of a luncheon conversation I had several weeks ago with the president of one of Wall Street's largest brokerage houses.

Would I be interested, he asked, in writing a monthly column about comic books for the investment-strategy newsletter that goes to the firm's clients? Would I, a comic fan and one-time Wall Street reporter, like to make trends rather than report on them? Would \$500 per column be acceptable?

No, I said, I wouldn't be interested.

And now I'm beginning to wonder whether I care about comic fans and their "investments" anymore. I liked them better when they were really fans and their "investments" were just plain old, run-of-the-mill comic books.

PRESENTING THE 1978 FEATURING CREATORS OF THE



Best Cover Artist

RICH CORBEN

Put a Rich Corben cover on a Warren Magazine and his numerous fans go berserk! Although only a couple appeared in '78, the cover featuring Corben's own version of beauty and the beast, *EERIE* #90, and "Jaws of Death" *CREEPY* #101, garnered rave reviews. We're pleased to announce that there will be more to come in '79! The best covers yet from Best Cover Artist of 1978 . . . Inimitable Rich Corben!



Best Story Art

NEBRES

Rudy Nebres is a master of black and white graphics. His exciting, vibrant, three-dimensional art was featured in *CREEPY* #96 . . . "Predation," best in '78!



Best Story

BRUCE JONES

Readers acclaimed "Hell Hound," a chilling tale featured in *CREEPY* #100, as a masterpiece of the macabre. But the macabre is Bruce Jones forte. "Hell Hound" . . . a trip to the netherworld where the unspeakable becomes real . . . via Jones' imagination!



'78 WARREN AWARDS

BEST ART AND STORIES OF '78!



Best Writer

BRUCE JONES

Bruce Jones' ability to twist the most ordinary occurrences into horrifying events wins him the Warren Award for Best Writer in 1978!



Best Artist

LEO DURANONA

Brilliant interplay of excellent design and masterful draftsmanship makes Leo Duranona Best in 1978!



Special Award

GONZALO MAYO

VAMPI readers always demand longer VAMPIRELLA stories and were delighted by book-length all-VAMPI #731 Quantity plus award-winning quality!



**Special Award:
Graphic Design on Covers,**

KIM McQUAITE

Our covers never looked better, thanks to Warren Award winning Art Director McQuaite



Best Cover

PENALVA

The fabulous flight-scene on the cover of EERIE #96 was filled with manic action. It was the best of Jordi Penalva's lively, colorful Warren covers! His paintings have a vital, frenetic quality ... and EERIE #96 was a winner ... the Best Cover Painting in '78! Our congratulations!

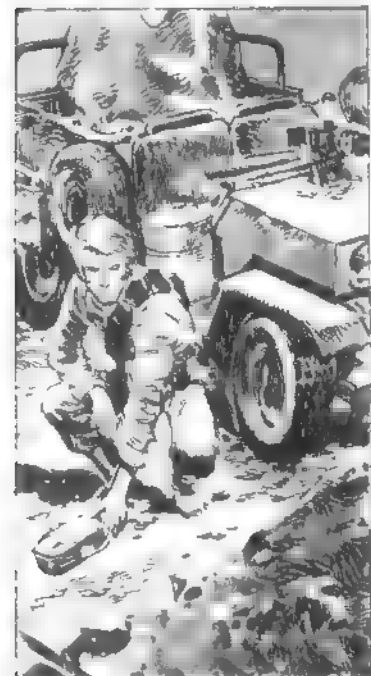


THEY'D WATCHED THE SKIES **FOREVER**. THEY'D MADE UP **RELIGIONS** TO MAKE THEIR HEAVENLY WATCH CONSTANT. THEY'D PURIFIED THEIR **SCIENCES** TO MAKE THE VIGIL PERFECT. THEY'D DREAMED THE DREAM OF **CONTACT**, THEY AWAITED THE **FIRST ENCOUNTER**. AND ONE NIGHT, EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, THE WAIT CAME TO **ABSOLUTION**. THE APPREHENSION WAS **OVER**, THE **NIGHTMARE** HAD **BEGUN**.

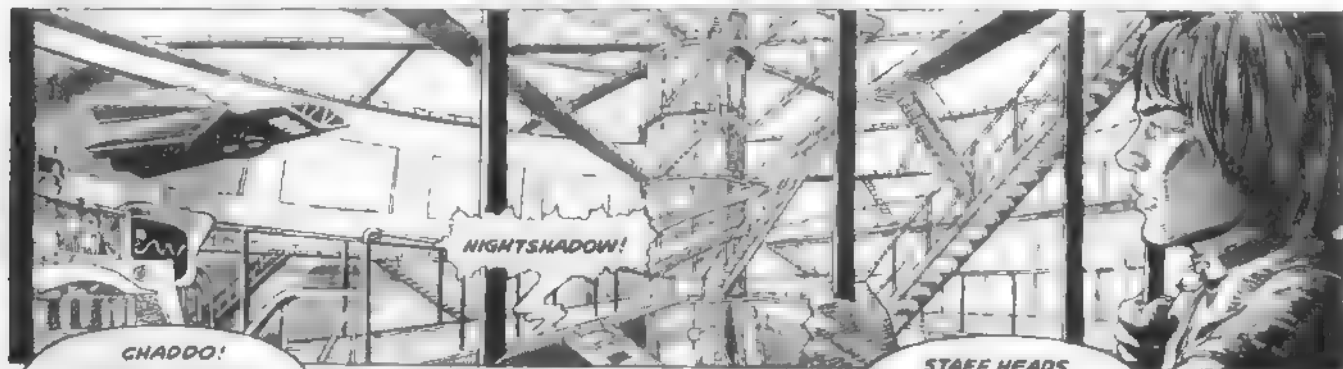


GOTTERDAMMERUNG!

SCRIPT: BUDD LEWIS/ART: ISIDRO MORA



A HATCH IN THE NEAREST
DOME OPENS TO RECEIVE
THE RETURNING CRAFT.



NIGHTSHADOW!

CHADDO!
COMERE AN LOOK!
THE "HOUSE CAT" JUST
CAME BACK IN! IT NAILED
ANOTHER SCAVENGER!

HEY
CHADDO? Y'KNOW
WHAT THE RUMOR
IS?

STAFF HEADS
SAID THE MASTERS DIS-
COVERED SOME GUY "OUTSIDE"
WAS SPOTLIGHTING SCAVEN-
GERS FOR THE "HOUSE CATS"
... BETRAYING HIS OWN
KIND.

FUNNY,
HJM?

GOOD!
THEY'LL BE BUSY
UP HERE! LET'S
GO!

WITNESS THE
INSTRUMENTS OF THE
GREATEST OCCURENCE IN
THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

ORION WARSHIPS!
THEY ARRIVED IN LESS THAN
FIVE HUNDRED OF THESE
BLOODBIRDS FROM BE-
YOND THE STARS.

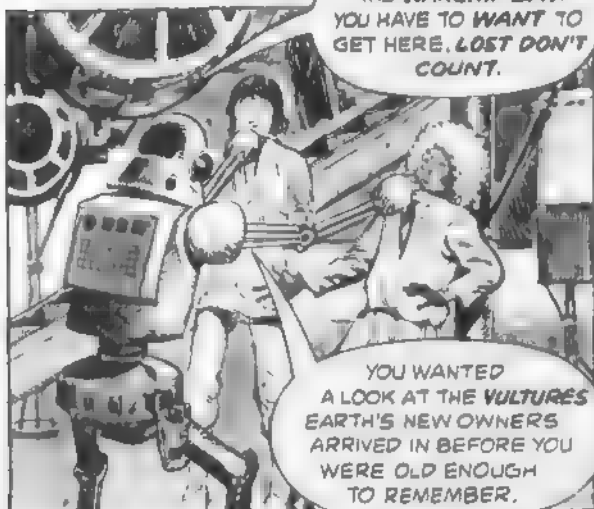
...AND IN LESS THAN
TWENTY FOUR HOURS
HUMANITY WITNESSED THE
RETURN OF THE GODS AND
THE DESTRUCTION OF THE
WORLD!

GOTTERDAMMERUNG!





ENVIRON
SLAVES! SPYING!



THIS IS
THE WARSHIP BAY.
YOU HAVE TO WANT TO
GET HERE. LOST DON'T
COUNT.

YOU WANTED
A LOOK AT THE VULTURES
EARTH'S NEW OWNERS
ARRIVED IN BEFORE YOU
WERE OLD ENOUGH
TO REMEMBER.



Y-YOU
KNOW MY
NAME,
STAFF
HEAD?

I'M NO
STAFF HEAD. NAME'S
JERICO. I'M A SLAVE,
SAME AS YOU.

THE MASTERS
NEED MY BRAINS SO
THEY PRESERVED MY
BODY... BIONICALLY. MY
BODY'S ROBOTIC, BUT I'M
STILL HUMAN SOME-
WHERE IN HERE

YOU'RE ROBIONIC!
A ROBIO! I NEVER SAW
ONE BEFORE!



LIE TO ME
AND I RIP THE
JAW OUT OF
YOUR FACE!

P-PLEASE,
STAFF HEAD...
W-WE

...G-GOT
LOST!



WELL,
ACTUALLY,
STAFF HEAD, I
WASN'T EVEN
BORN YET
WHEN...



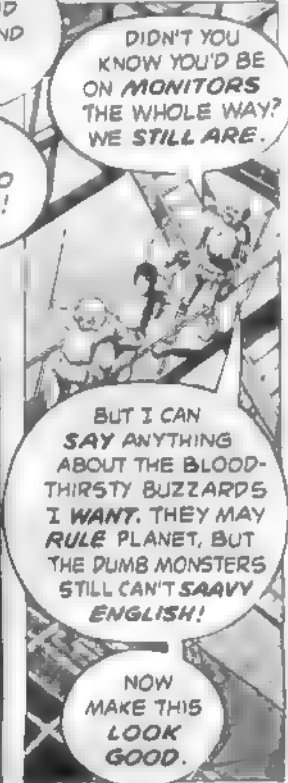
BUT YOUR MOMMA
GAVE YOU TO THE MASTERS
TO GROW UP A SLAVE,
RATHER THAN DIE OUT
THERE LIKE SHE DID...
NIGHTSHADOW!



YEAH, A
ROBIO. AND I
KNOW YOU, DAVID
NIGHTSHADOW AND
I'VE SEEN YOU,
CHADDO SHADE

AND I
WAS SENT
DOWN HERE TO
EXECUTE YOU!
BOTH!!!

GET YOUR
HANDS UP.
TURN AROUND.



DIDN'T YOU
KNOW YOU'D BE
ON MONITORS
THE WHOLE WAY?
WE STILL ARE.

BUT I CAN
SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT THE BLOOD-
THIRSTY BUZZARDS
I WANT. THEY MAY
RULE PLANET, BUT
THE DUMB MONSTERS
STILL CAN'T SAAVV
ENGLISH!

NOW
MAKE THIS
LOOK
GOOD.



NOW LISTEN
YOU BROKE THEIR LAW.
AND YOU'RE FINISHED "IN-
SIDE" NOW IT'S MY CHOICE
BLAST YOU OR PUT YOU
OUT THERE TO DEATH
EITHER WAY

BUT AT
LEAST OUT THERE,
YOU GOT A CHANCE
OF FINDING



WHAT?
CHANCE OF FINDING
WHAT, JERICO?

LET ME
TELL YOU A
STORY. ONE YOU
MIGHT HAVE HEARD
BEFORE.

TURN
AROUND, BOY!
THEY'RE
WATCHING!



SIXTEEN YEARS
AGO, THE ENTIRE WORLD
BECAME **ENTHRALLED**
WITH THE POSSIBLE EXIST-
ENCE OF UFO'S... **ALIEN**
CONTACT.

SO THE
WORLD SETTLED
DOWN TO WAIT FOR
ITS FIRST ENCOUNTER
WITH OUR "BROTHERS"
FROM THE STARS



WE
DREAMED THAT
THE PEACEFUL
ALIENS WOULD SHARE,
WITH DIVINE **BENEVOLENCE**,
THE SECRETS OF THE
UNIVERSE. AND WE
GOT WHAT WE
DESERVED!



BUT THERE IS A
LEGEND ABOUT A GROUP OF
HEROES WHO WOULD NOT BE
CONQUERED EVEN BY
INTELLECTS BEYOND
HUMAN KIN!



FIRE
IN THE
HOLE!!

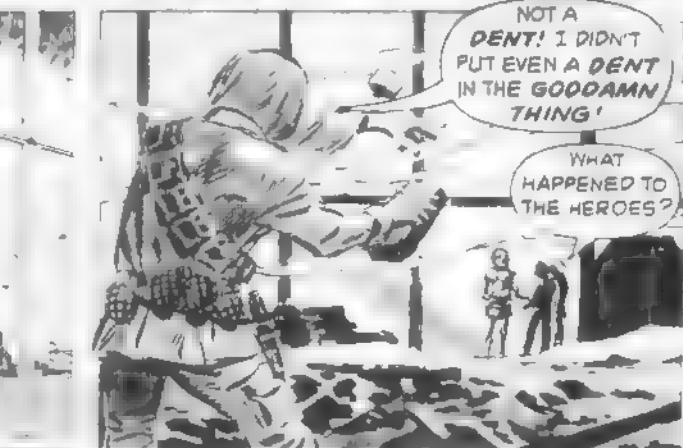


THE LEGEND SAYS THAT
THESE HEROES SNUCK INTO THE
ALIEN ENVIRONS AND LEARNED
TO OPERATE THE WARSHIPS!



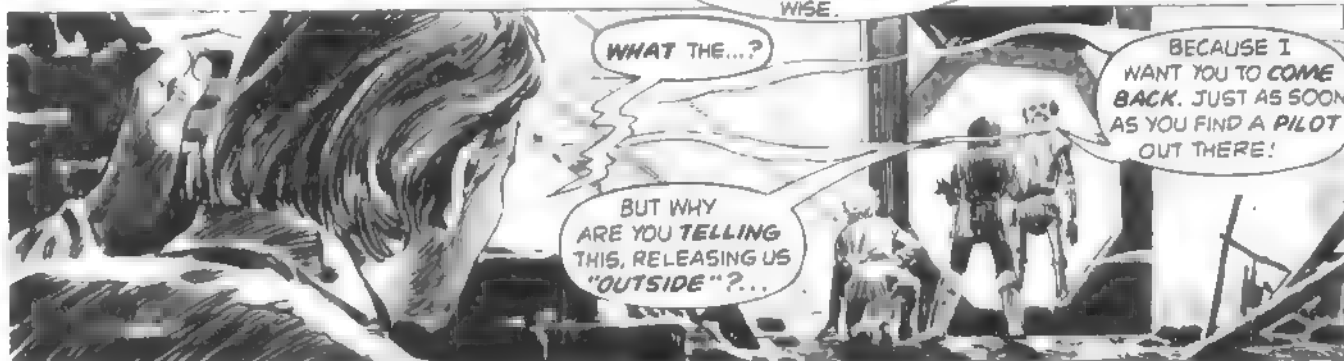
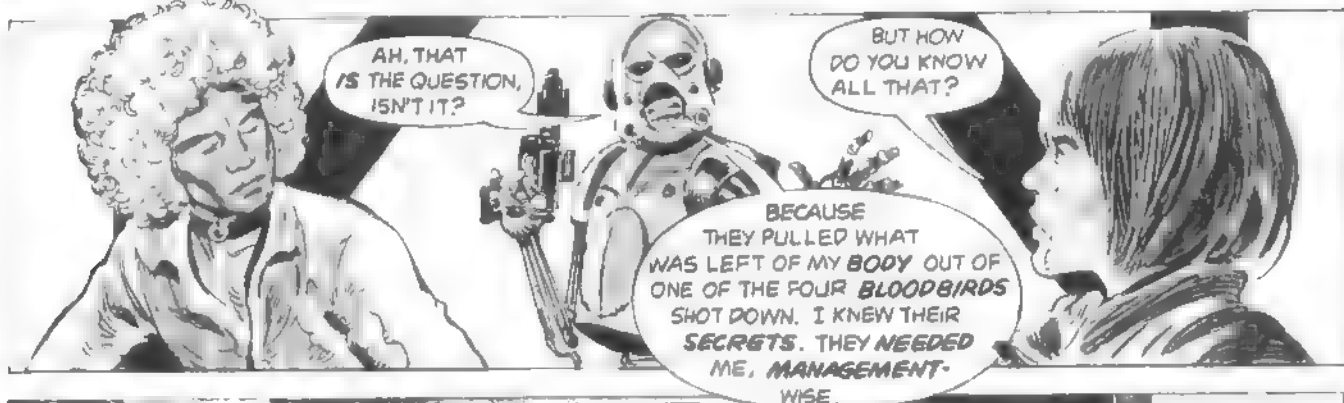
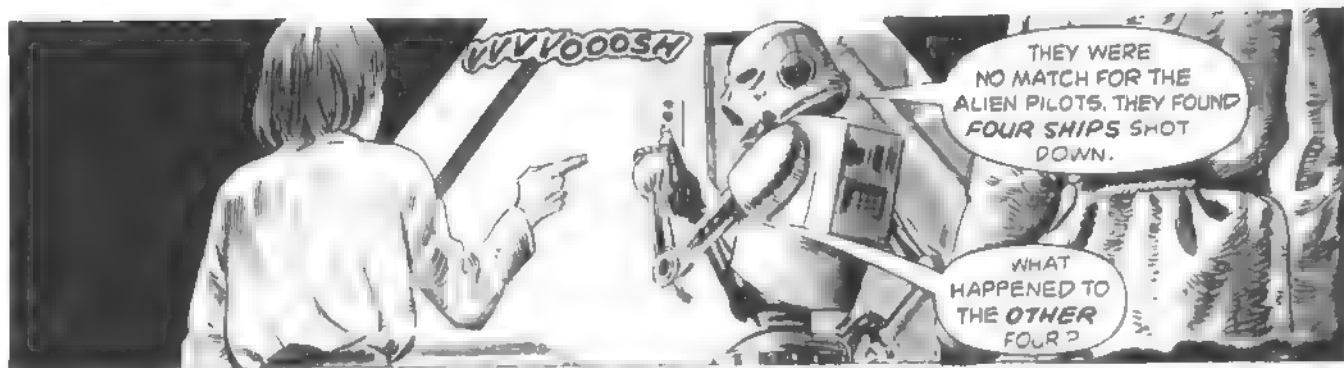
WHEN THEY
WERE READY, THEY
STOLE NINE BLOOD-
BIRDS AND DROVE
AGAINST THE ALIEN
CONQUERERS

WHAT'S
THAT FLASH OF
LIGHT, JERICO?



NOT A
DENT! I DIDN'T
PUT EVEN A DENT
IN THE GODDAMN
THING!

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE HEROES?

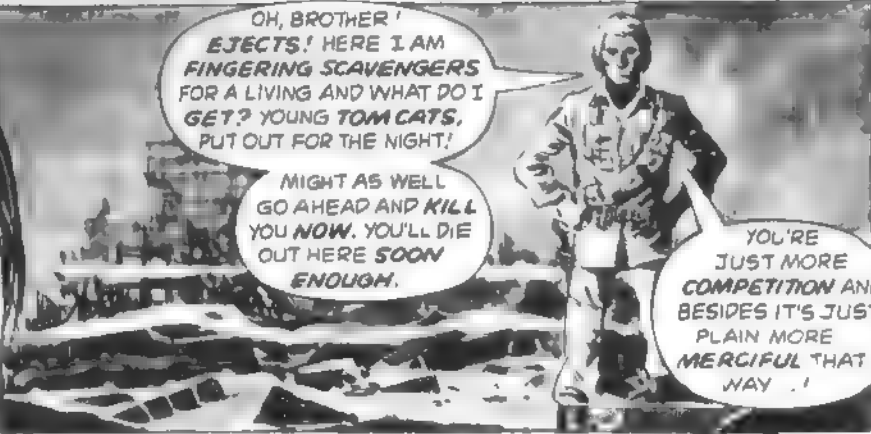




OH, BROTHER!
EJECTS! HERE I AM
FINGERING **SCAVENGERS**
FOR A LIVING AND WHAT DO I
GET? **YOUNG TOM CATS,**
PUT OUT FOR THE NIGHT!

MIGHT AS WELL
GO AHEAD AND **KILL**
YOU NOW. YOU'LL DIE
OUT HERE **SOON**
ENOUGH.

YOU'RE
JUST MORE
COMPETITION AND
BESIDES IT'S JUST
PLAIN MORE
MERCIFUL THAT
WAY . . !



THIS IS
THE GUY I HEARD
ABOUT, CHADDO
WHACKED RIGHT
OUT!



ARE YOU THE
GUY THAT **SPOT-**
LIGHTS OTHER PEOPLE
FOR THE "HOUSE CATS"?

MY NAME'S
JUDA, AND I'M STAYIN'
ALIVE. IF I HAPPEN TO RID
THE EARTH OF A CERTAIN
SEGMENT OF OUR
"SOCIETY" IN THE
PROCESS...



YOU--

KLATCH!

UGH!



OKAY, MISTER,
THAT ONE WAS ON ME!
YOU THOUGHT I **DESERVED**
IT. BUT LET ME MAKE YOU
AWARE OF SOMETHING. "OUTSIDE"
IS A **GRAVE YARD**. NOT ONLY IS
THERE A **FAMINE** BUT
THERE'S A **PLAGUE**
TOO.

THE **PLAGUE**
RIDDEN EAT AS
MUCH AS A **HEALTHY**
MAN... EVEN THOUGH
THEY'RE AS GOOD AS
DEAD AND THE FOOD'S
WASTED ON THEM.



I'M JUST
TRYING TO GIVE THOSE
OF US WHO **ARE** ABLE TO
SURVIVE A **BETTER**
CHANGE.

I... I
HAVE THIS...
CRAZY FEELING.
LIKE, IF WE CAN HOLD
ON JUST A LITTLE
LONGER...SOME-
THING'S GONNA
HAPPEN!

I'VE BEEN
TRYING EVERYTHING
I CAN **THINK** OF AGAINST
THEM...EXPLOSIVES...
OTHER THINGS THEY
JUST DON'T SEEM TO
EVEN NOTIC--

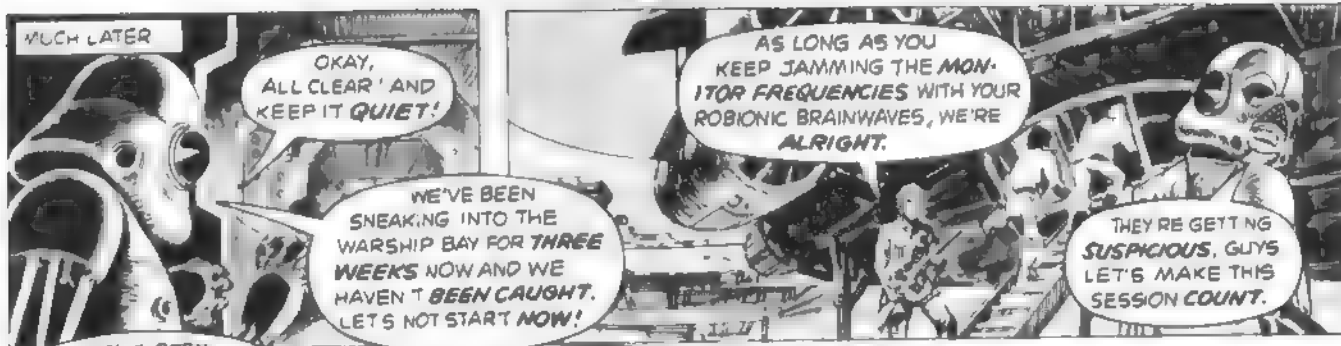


MMMM

NIGHTSHADOW!
A "HOUSE CAT"!

THE **JEEP!**
GET UNDER THE
JEEP!!





MUCH LATER

OKAY,
ALL CLEAR! AND
KEEP IT **QUIET!**

WE'VE BEEN
SNEAKING INTO THE
WARSHIP BAY FOR **THREE**
WEEKS NOW AND WE
HAVEN'T BEEN **CAUGHT**.
LET'S NOT START **NOW!**

AS LONG AS YOU
KEEP **JAMMING** THE **MON-**
ITOR **FREQUENCIES** WITH YOUR
ROBONIC BRAINWAVES, WE'RE
ALRIGHT.

THEY'RE GETTING
SUSPICIOUS, GUYS
LET'S MAKE THIS
SESSION **COUNT.**



WE'VE BEEN
TRAINING TWO WEEKS
TOO LONG **ALREADY**

THEN YOU'LL
BE **GLAD** TO HEAR
THAT **TRAINING**
ENDS **TODAY!**

I-IT DOES..
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?



THAT'S WHAT
I MEAN THEY
FINALLY **CAUGHT**
ON!



LET'S GET
THIS **COAL OIL**
BURKING **BOXCAR**
CRANKED **UP!**

ROGER!
IGNITION
COMPLETE!

JER-CHO,
GET THE **LAUNCH**
BAY **DOORS** **OPENED**
BEFORE THOSE **TRIGGER**
HAPPY **TIN** **CANS** **BLAST**
US **OFF** THE **FACE**
OF THE **EARTH!**



NO TIME TO
DO THIS **ACCORDING**
TO **PROCEDURE**. I WAS
MONITORING A **RADIO**
SIGNAL BEING **BEAMED**
IN FROM **OUTER** **SPACE.**

WHAT **KIND**
OF **SIGNAL?** WHAT
DID IT **SAY?**




JUST
ONE **WORD..**

...**"NOW"**!!

WHOMMMMM
KER-SNASH

END

The Horizon Seekers



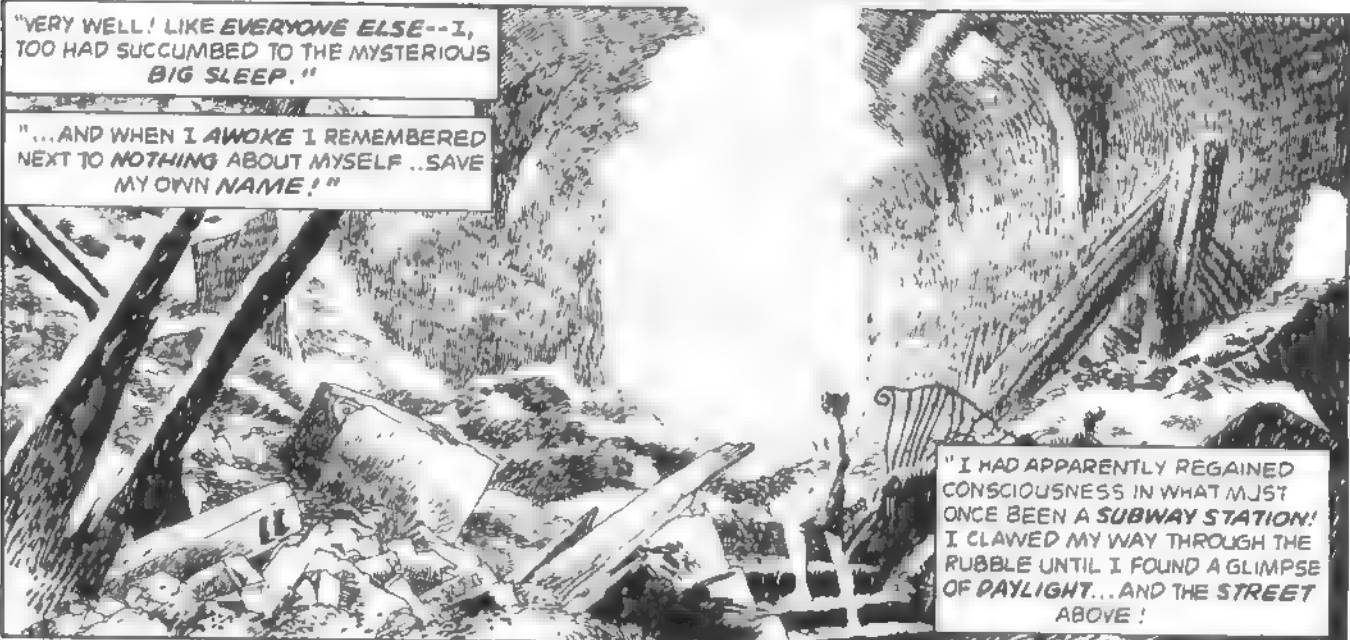
WHY DON'T WE COMPARE NOTES AND SEE WHAT EACH OF US REMEMBERS...MAYBE WE'LL BE ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WORLD WE USED TO KNOW!

THEY CAME FROM DIFFERENT ENDS OF THE EARTH... THE EARTH AS IT WAS BEFORE THE FINAL FALL OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT! PROVIDED WITH ONLY FAR-FLUNG FRAGMENTS OF THE PAST...AND DEPRIVED OF ANY INKLING OF WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD FOR THEM...ALL THEY CAN DO IS LOOK AHEAD--FOR NOW THEY ARE...

SOUNDS SENSIBLE ENOUGH! YOU FIRST!


"VERY WELL! LIKE EVERYONE ELSE--I, TOO HAD SUCCEEDED TO THE MYSTERIOUS BIG SLEEP."

"...AND WHEN I AWOKED I REMEMBERED NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT MYSELF ..SAVE MY OWN NAME!"



"I HAD APPARENTLY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS IN WHAT MUST ONCE BEEN A SUBWAY STATION! I CLAWED MY WAY THROUGH THE RUBBLE UNTIL I FOUND A GLIMPSE OF DAYLIGHT...AND THE STREET ABOVE!"

WELL? GO ON--DON'T STOP NOW! WHAT WAS IT LIKE...UP ABOVE?

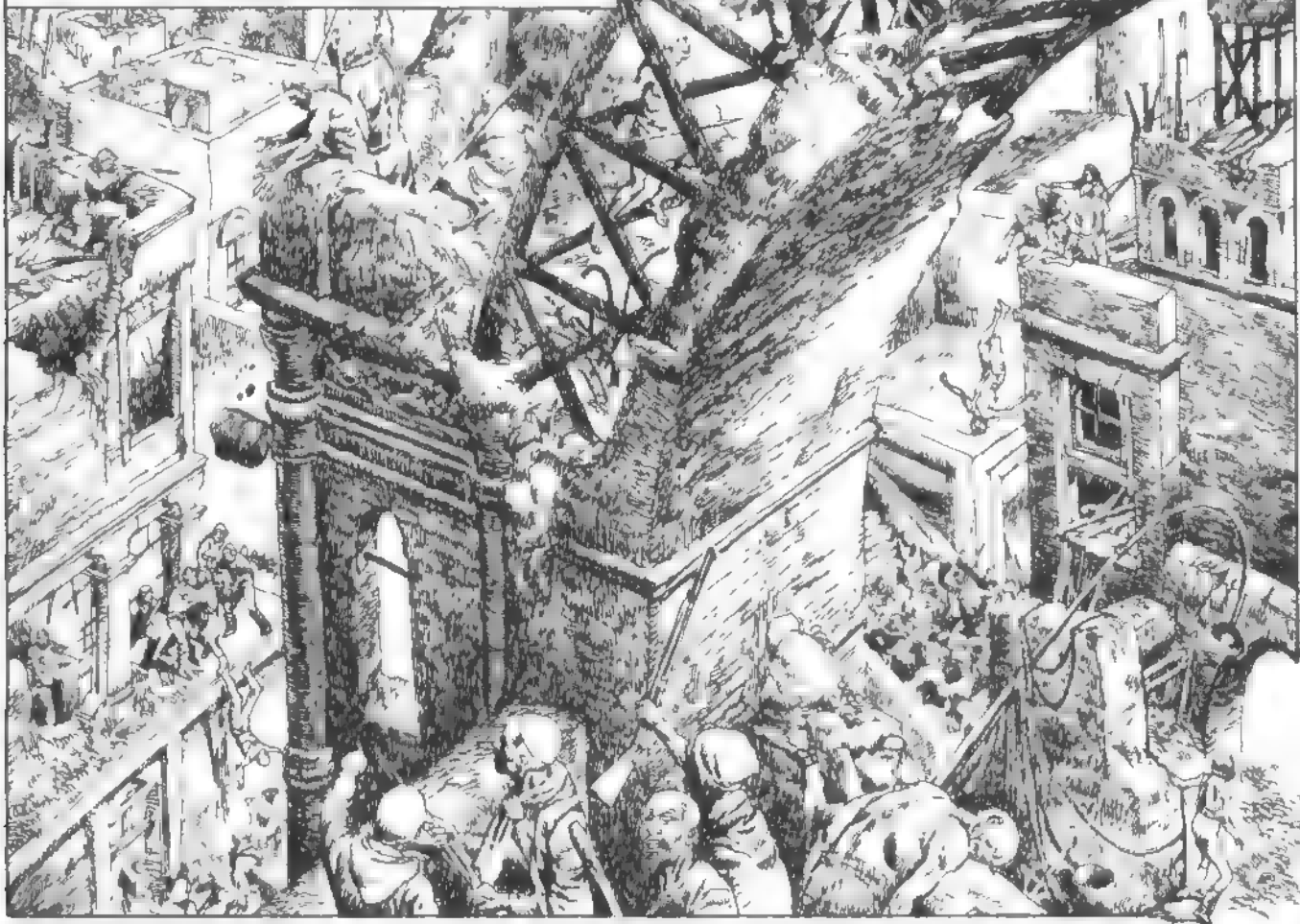


IT WAS HORRIBLE... FAR WORSE THAN ANY NIGHT-MARE I COULD HAVE EVER ENVISIONED

"MEN GOING AT EACH OTHER LIKED CRAZED SLAVERING ANIMALS--MURDERING ONE ANOTHER FOR A CRUMB OF FOOD...A CUP OF UNCONTAMINATED WATER!"

"APPARENTLY EVERYONE ELSE HAD LOST THEIR MEMORIES ALONG WITH ME--LEAVING NOTHING BUT RAMPANT FEAR AND SPREADING PANIC TO OVERRIDE ALL ELSE!"

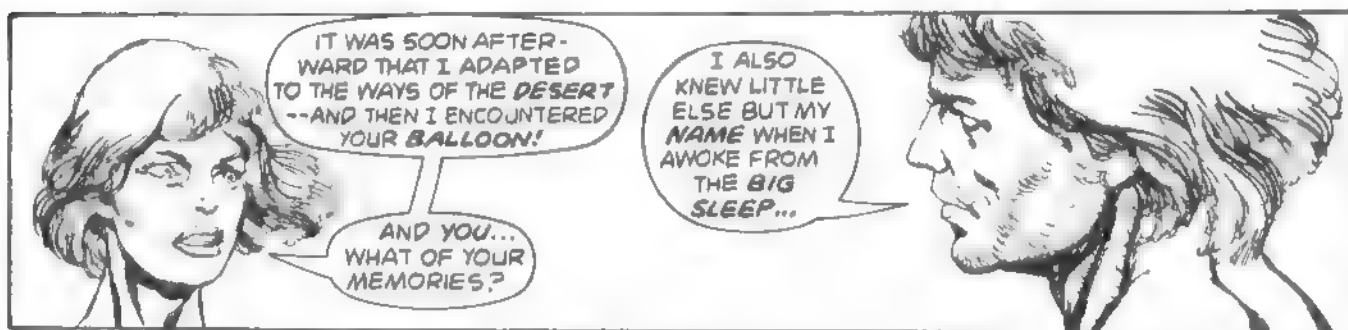
"IT WAS LIKE THE HUMAN RACE HAD REGRESSED A MILLION YEARS OVERNIGHT--AND WE WERE ONCE AGAIN SLAVES OF THE SAME SAVAGE INSTINCTS THAT RULED OUR CAVEMEN ANCESTORS!"



"SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO SKULK MY WAY OUT OF THE DEATH-AND-VIOLENCE-RIDDEN CITY..."

"AS I FINALLY REACHED THE OUTLYING SUBURBS THE DEAD BODIES HAD BECOME LESS ABUNDANT... BUT THEIR FOUL STENCH WAS STILL CARRIED ON THE WIND AT MY BACK!"





"IN SOME SORT OF ANCIENT EXCAVATION! PERHAPS
I WAS AN **ARCHAEOLOGIST** BEFORE THE **CATASTROPHE**
...I DON'T KNOW!"



"I ROAMED AMONG THE RUINS AROUND ME.. SEEING THE
SAME HUMAN SAVAGERY AND DEPRIVATION YOU
DESCRIBED!"

"AT FIRST I HAD COUNTED MYSELF AMONG THE **LUCKY**
ONES.. BECAUSE I HAD MANAGED TO **SURVIVE** THE
HOLOCAUST! BUT THE MORE I SAW OF WHAT THE
WORLD HAD **BECOME**...THE LESS I WAS SURE I
WANTED TO SURVIVE!"



"EVENTUALLY, STUMBLING THROUGH THE
WRECKAGE OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK--I
CAME UPON AN ABANDONED **HOT-AIR
BALLOON!**"



"AT ONCE I KNEW I HAD FOUND A **REASON**
TO GO ON LIVING... AND A **MEANS** TO BEGIN
SEARCHING WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE
WORLD FOR A PLACE WHERE I COULD
MAKE A **NEW START!**"

IT WASN'T
LONG AFTER THAT I
HAD TO MAKE MY EMER-
GENCY LANDING IN THE
DESERT...AND THE
TWO OF US MET!



A **STRANGE**
NOTION JUST HIT ME!
YOU AND I...EVEN IF WE
HAD **KNOWN** EACH OTHER
BEFORE THE **BIG
SLEEP...**



WE'D STILL
BE JUST WHAT
WE ARE NOW--

STRANGERS!

In A Strange Land



MMMM...AS YOU SAY,
WE COULD BE A PAIR OF
OLD ACQUAINTANCES...OR
BETTER YET, OLD FRIENDS...
MAYBE *ONCE* WE WERE
EVEN *INTIMATE* COMPAN-
IONS...

OR MAYBE
EVEN *BROTHER* AND
SISTER-- DID YOU EVER
THINK OF THAT?

BARR! IT'S
GETTING *COLD* UP HERE!
YOU HAVE ANYTHING ABOARD
FOR KEEPING *WARM*?

HOW ABOUT A
PAIR OF STRONG
MASCULINE ARMS?



THE *FUR*
COATS IN THIS
LOCKER WILL DO FINE,
THANK YOU

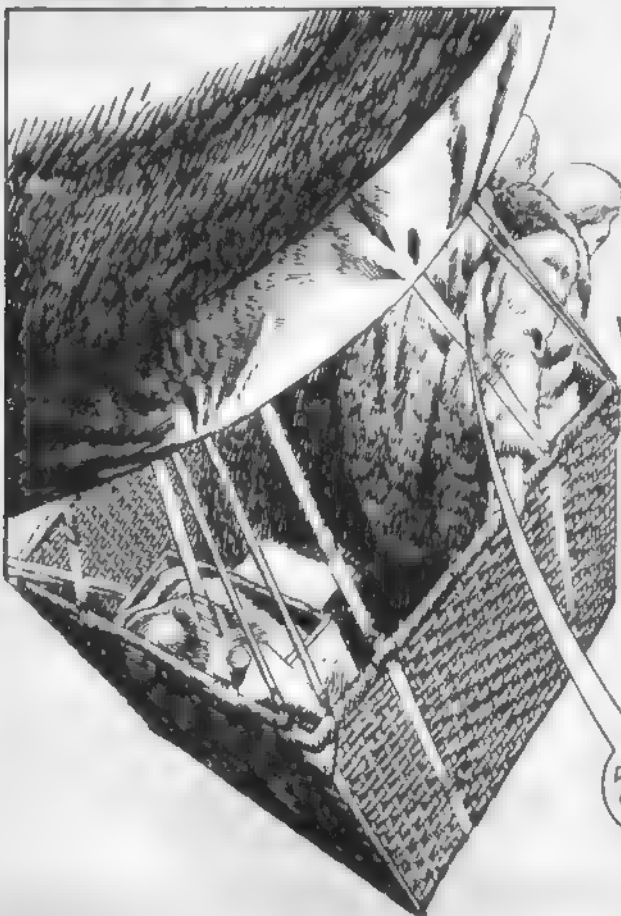
IF IT'S ANY
CONSOLATION...I REALLY
DON'T THINK WE COULD
BE *RELATED* YOUR *FOR-*
HEAD IS MUCH TOO
LOW!

YOU'RE JUST
A *HOPELESS*
ROMANTIC,
AREN'T YOU!



OH NO! NOT *HIM*
AGAIN! HE MUST'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING US ALL THE
WAY ACROSS THE *DESERT!*

EH?



OH MAN! IT'S THE
SHEXA! THAT MOTORIZED
SHIEK STILL HASN'T GIVEN
UP ON CAPTURING *ME*
AND MY *BALLOON!*

IT'S *ME* HE'S AFTER,
DIMWIT! YOU'RE NOT THE
ONE HE WANTS TO SPEND
THE *NIGHT* WITH!





NO ONE ESCAPES THE
RULE OF THE SHEXA!
AN EXAMPLE MUST BE
MADE!

BRING
THEM
DOWN!

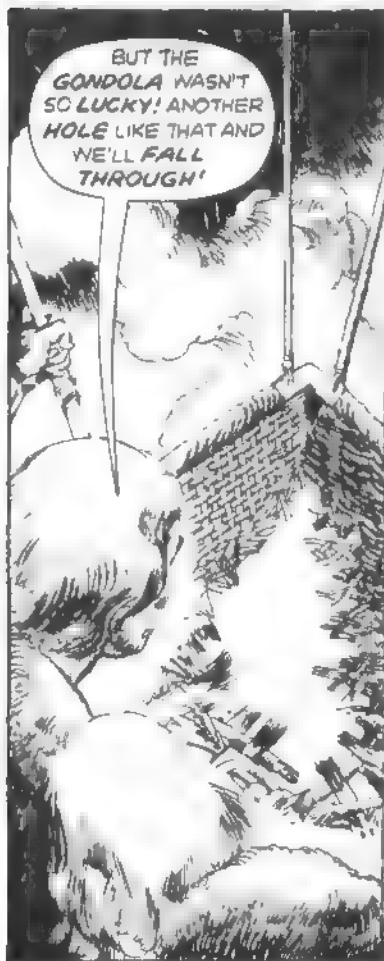
AS YOU
COMMAND,
MY LORD!



BRAM!



LOOK OUT!
THAT ALMOST
HIT US!



BUT THE
GONDOLA WASN'T
SO LUCKY! ANOTHER
HOLE LIKE THAT AND
WE'LL FALL
THROUGH!



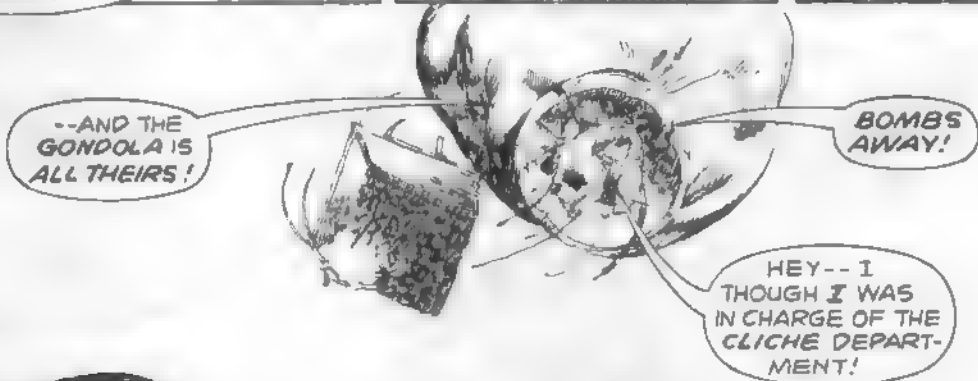
AGAIN!
BLAST THEM
AGAIN!

BRAM!



SOME OF THE
FLAK FROM THAT LAST
BLAST TORE INTO THE
BALLOON! WE'RE
LOSING AIR!

NOT TO
MENTION
ALTITUDE!





A CREVICE ON THE NORTH FACE OF A SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAIN SLOPE...

YOU KNOW
SOMETHING--I
NEVER DID GET
YOUR NAME!
ME, I'M
JESSE!

JESSE
YOU KNOW,
THAT SEEMS TO
FIT YOU SOMEHOW
I'M ALLISON!

SOON AS THAT
WIND LETS UP WE'LL
START HIKING AND FIND
OUT WHAT'S ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THIS MOUNTAIN!

WHATEVER
WE FIND HAS GOT
TO BE BETTER
THAN THIS!

MAYBE YOU
WERE RIGHT, JESSE
MAYBE WE DID!
MAYBE WE WERE!

THIS WOULD
BE A PERFECT TIME
TO TELL YOU MY LIFE
STORY, ALLISON...IF
ONLY ALL THE PAGES
IN MY HEAD WEREN'T
BLANK!

HOLD ME
CLOSER,
JESSE.

CLOSE
FRIENDS A LONG
TIME AGO LIKE YOU
SAID... MAYBE VERY
CLOSE FRIENDS

MAYBE
WE WERE
WHAT?

AND IF WE
ONLY HAD OUR
MEMORIES WE'D
REMEMBER ALL
THE GREAT TIMES
WE HAD

YEAH, RIGHT--
JESSE AND ALLISON!
I'LL BET WE WERE
SOME COUPLE BACK
IN THOSE DAYS!
LEGENDS IN OUR
OWN TIME!

CLOSER,
JESSE, I CAN'T
STOP SHIVERING!

JESSE AND
ALLISON...WHAT A
PAIR WE MUST'VE
BEEN BACK THEN...

BEHIND THE UNTAINTED LOVE OF A FATHER LURKS THE OMINOUS DUTY OF A SOVEREIGN. BENEATH THE INNOCENT AFFECTION OF A SON HIDES THE NAKED DESIRE OF SELF-PRESERVATION. JOINED SUCH ELEMENTS PROVE SO VOLATILE THAT THE VERY NIGHT IS CHARGED WITH FEAR AND ANTICIPATION. DARK FORCES AND YET DARKER EMOTIONS DANCE THROUGH THE EMPTY EVENING AIR FOR TONIGHT THERE IS TO BE A.

DUEL

THE YOUTH... TALL, PROUD, ASCETIC. BLACK FORCES PLAY BEHIND HIS EBONY PUPIL. HE STANDS AS IF FORGED FROM FINELY TEMPERED STEEL SHEATHED IN COOL SILKEN DEATH.

HE WAS BORN PRINCE DARKLON II OF NEBULARIA, BUT NOW GOES AMIDST THE STARS KNOWN ONLY AS DARKLON THE MYSTIC.

THE ELDER... MASSIVE, REGAL, FIERY HE WEARS THE STRENGTH OF HIS STATION AND HIS OWN VITALITY LIKE A ROYAL MANTLE. HE STANDS UNMISTAKABLY THE END PRODUCT OF A DOZEN CENTURIES OF POWER AND DISCIPLINE.

HE IS NOW AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN CALLED HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS KAVAR DARKHOLD, RULER OF THE NEBULARIAN EMPIRE.

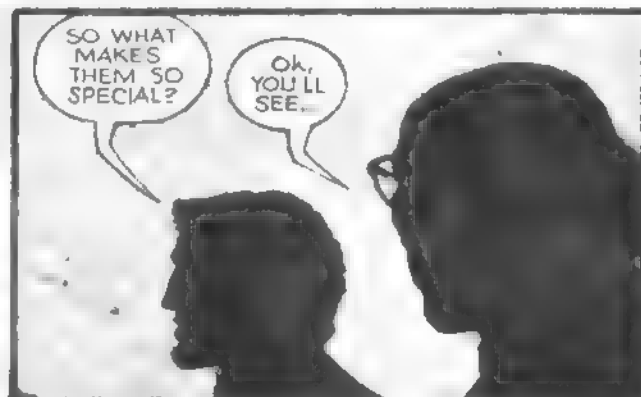


THE PLANET'S NAME, TO SOME, IS **TELLUS**-- TO OTHERS IT'S **EARTH**. THE PLACE IS CALLED **WILDWOOD HOSPITAL**, SITUATED IN A QUIET NEW ENGLAND SUBURB. THE YEAR IS 1979.



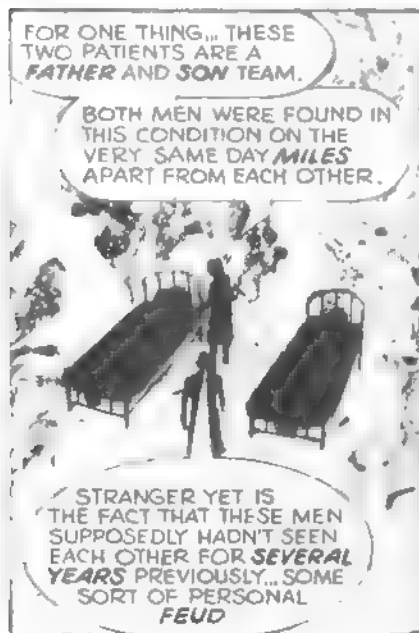
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THIS EVEN MORE **FASCINATING** THAN THE BAUMAN CASE, DR. BELL.

THESE TWO PATIENTS ARE BOTH **CATATONIC**, BUT UNLIKE YOUNG BARRY, THEY'VE ONLY BEEN IN THIS STATE FOR LITTLE OVER A YEAR.



SO WHAT MAKES THEM SO SPECIAL?

OK, YOU'LL SEE...



SINCE YOUR DEPARTURE
THE HOUSE OF NEBULARIA
STANDS WITHOUT ONE
DESTINED TO FOLLOW
IN MY FOOTSTEPS.

CITIZENS FEAR THE FUTURE.
OTHER GOVERNMENTS SHY AWAY
FROM DEALINGS WITH A
SOVEREIGNTY WHOSE DAYS MAY
BE NUMBERED. EVEN TALK OF
REVOLUTION REARS
ITS UGLY HEAD.

SO YOU SEE
I'VE NO CHOICE



YES...
I SEE...

HOW SHALL
WE HANDLE
THIS MATTER?

I FELT THE
BIO-DISRUPTOR
DUELING METER
WOULD BE BEST
FOR OUR PURPOSES.

IT IS THE QUICKEST
DEATH I KNOW AND IT
GIVES US BOTH AN
EQUAL CHANCE
FOR SURVIVAL.

IT ALSO GIVES YOU ONE LAST
OPPORTUNITY TO TEST YOUR
SON'S METTLE...

VERY WELL,
LET US BEGIN.



DOCTOR HOFFSTEADER,
THE OLD MAN'S HEART
RATE... IT'S BEGUN TO
RACE... DANGEROUSLY!

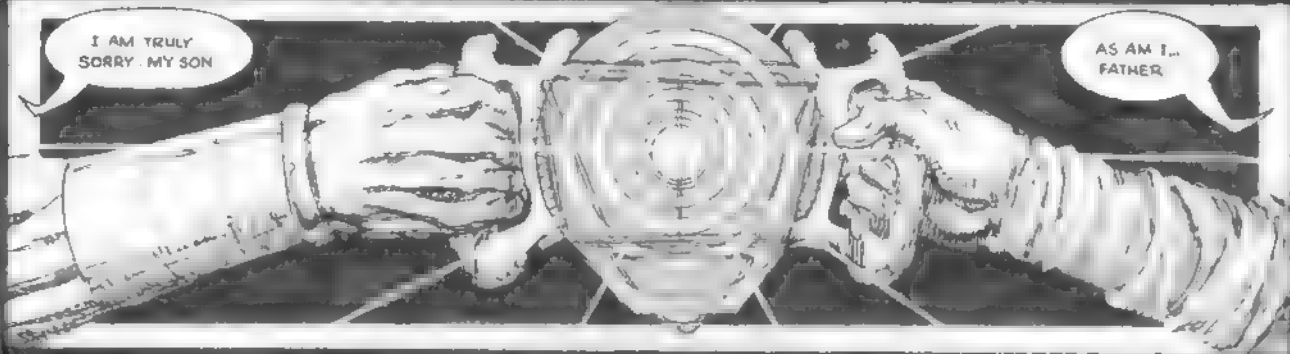
SO HAS
THE SON'S!

QUICKLY...
GET THE
HEART UNIT
IN HERE!

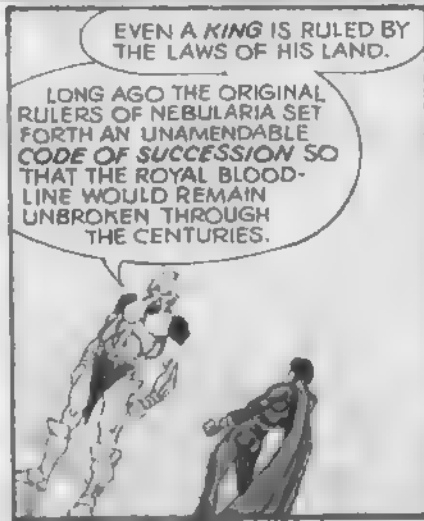
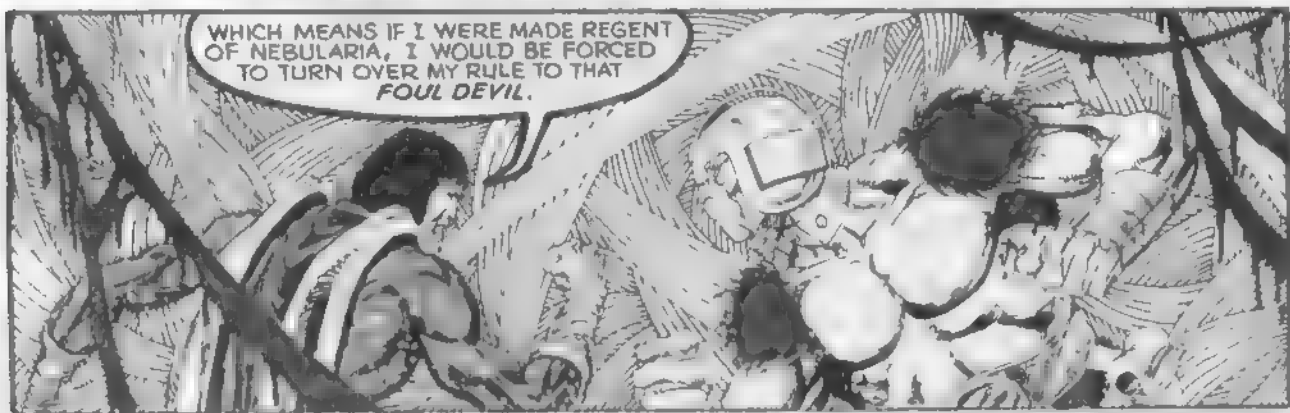
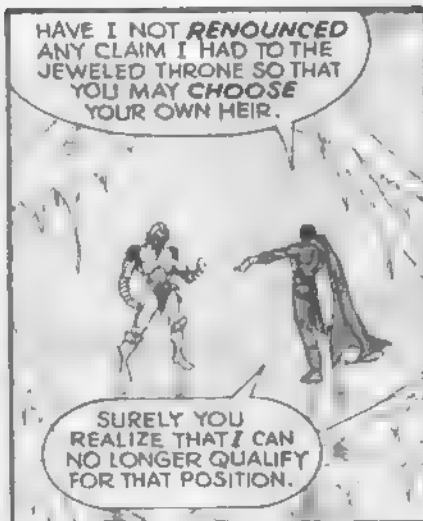


I AM TRULY
SORRY, MY SON

AS AM I...
FATHER



A TRIGGER MECHANISM
ACTIVATES, ENERGIES FLOW,
NERVOUS SYSTEMS, BRAIN
PATTERNS AND WILLS CONNECT
AND CONFLICT THE DUEL
BEGINS



THROUGH THE DUAL
PASSAGEWAYS OF LOVE-
HATE THE TWO COMBAT-
ANTS ACT OUT THE
TWISTED PARODY
THAT HAS BEEN
THEIR LIVES.

A
SON
IN
REBELLION

A
FATHER
CRUSHING
REBELLION

FOREVER IN CONFLICT,
THESE TWO DAMNING
THEIR DIFFERENCES,
NEVER NOTICING
THEIR SIMILARITIES

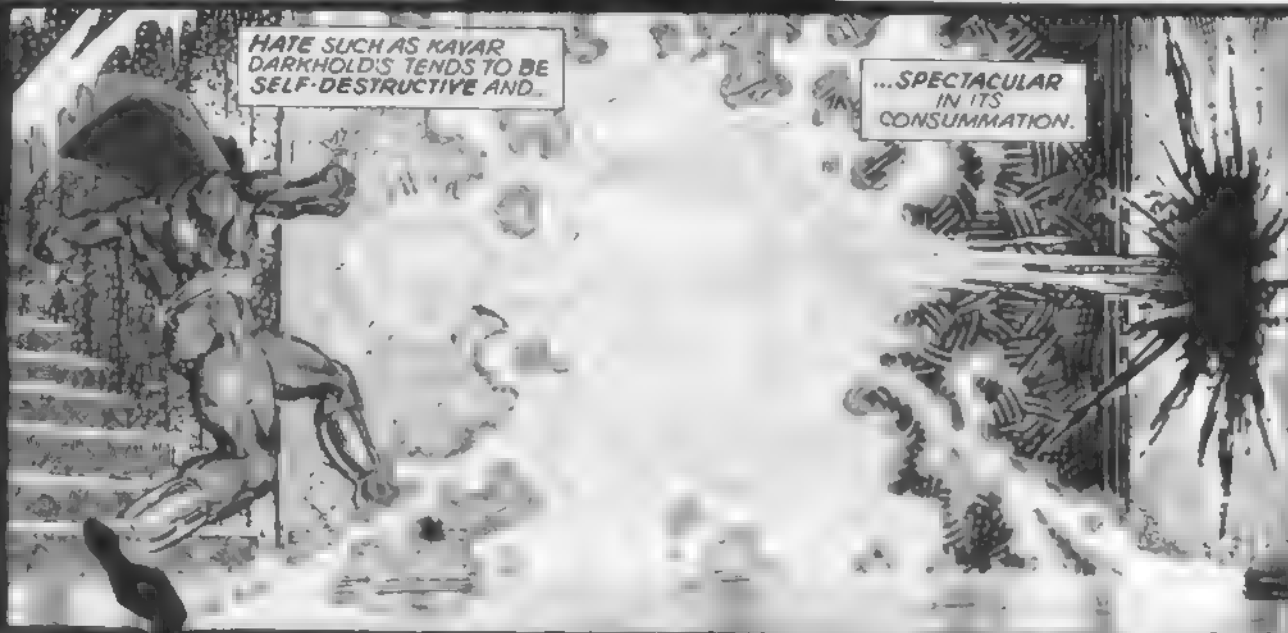
GOOD
LORD,
THEY'RE
GOING
INTO
CONVUL-
SIONS!

TWO
BLIND
MEN
RACING
TOWARD
HELL.

THEN THE MOMENT LOCKS ITSELF
INTO ETERNITY. SOLID GROUND
IS FOUND FOR THE TWISTED
FEELINGS THAT ARE THEIRS

PSYCHIC WALLS
SHATTER. SPIRITUAL
INNARDS ARE
TWISTED AND
RIPPED AT. THE
SOUL AND HEART
LIE TORN OPEN
AND LOVE DIES.

THE BATTLE RAGES ON, NOW COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL. DEATH EDGES TOWARD ONE COMBATANT, THEN TURNS TO EMBRACE THE OTHER, THEN SHIFTS ITS DIRECTION AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL AT LAST THE WILL OF THE MYSTIC, STRENGTHENED BY SPELL CASTINGS AND SUMMONINGS, BEGINS TO OVERWHELM THE SOUL WHOSE ONLY EXERCISE HAS BEEN DOMINATING ITS FELLOW BEINGS



HATE SUCH AS KAVAR DARKHOLD'S TENDS TO BE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE AND...

...SPECTACULAR IN ITS CONSUMMATION.

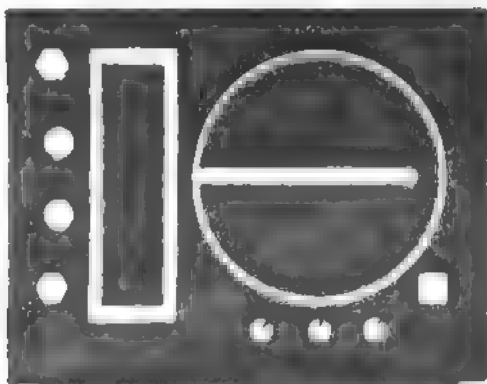


BUT FROM THE ASHES OF HATRED SOME TIMES SPRING THE RESURRECTION OF GENTLER EMOTIONS.

FATHER

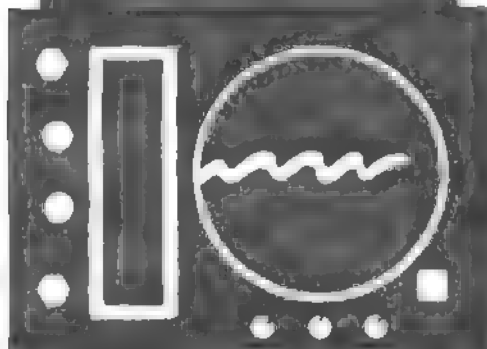


YET FOR SOME THE REBIRTH OF LOVE COMES TOO LATE.



THE OLD
MAN'S GONE...
MASSIVE
CORONARY
DAMAGE

HOW'S
THE
SON
DOING?



HE SEEMS TO BE
STEADYING

I THINK HE
MAY JUST
SURVIVE



REALIZATION AND LOSS, SHADOWED
BY GUILT... GRIM BURDENS TO BEAR
AND AN UNDERSTANDABLE EXCUSE
FOR NOT FEELING THE CHILL OF
NEWLY ARRIVED EVIL UNTIL...

HAIL
KAVAR DARKLON,
NEW RULER OF
NEBULARIA.



THE
NAMELESS
ONE

YOU WASTE
LITTLE TIME
IN CLAIMING
THAT, WHICH
IS YOURS

THAT IS
MY NATURE,
DARKLON,
I AM THE
NAMELESS
ONE.

I DEAL IN SOULS,
PAIN, MORALS, AND
POWER. MY BARGAINS
ARE SEVERE BUT
JUST.



I EXPECT
THOSE I
BARTER
WITH TO
BE THE
SAME.



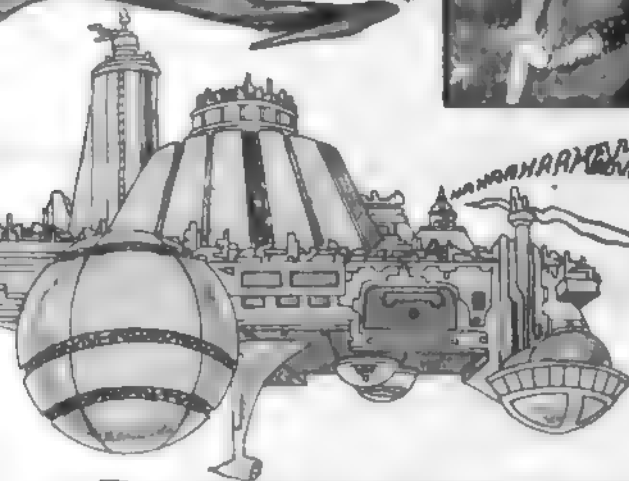
I STAND READY TO PAY
THE PRICE I PROMISED
ALL I HAVE IS NOW AND
FOREVER YOURS.

NEBULARIA
INCLUDED.



AT
LAST!

I HAVE WAITED
CENTURIES FOR
THIS MOMENT..



...THIS MOMENT
OF VENGEANCE
CLIMAXED.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

IT WAS YOUR
ANCESTOR,
DARLONRE II,
WHO DROVE ME
FROM THIS
PLAIN SO
LONG PAST.



HE
SHATTERED
THE CULTS
THAT
WORSHIPPED
ME.



... FELLED
THE IDOLS THAT
HONORED ME.



HE
CLOSED
THIS WORLD
OFF TO MY
INFLUENCE
IN EVERY
WAY.



I SWORE
BITTER AND
TERRIBLE
REVENGE
FOR THAT
INDIGNITY
AND NOW..



I HAVE
RETURNED
TO CARRY
OUT THAT
VOW.

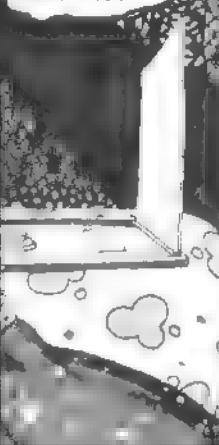
YOU, BEING A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF DARKLORE II AND COMING TO ME FOR AID, CREATED A BREACH IN THE SPELL WHICH RESTRAINED ME.



NOW YOUR SLAYING OF YOUR FATHER AND TURNING OVER YOUR THRONE TO ME GRANTS ME UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THIS WORLD ONCE AGAIN



WITH THIS NEWFOUND FREEDOM COMES NEW PLEASURES AND DELIGHTS SUCH AS



MAKING THIS WORLD SCREAM.



AS FOR YOU, CONSIDER YOURSELF BANISHED FROM NEBULARIA



I WILL FIND IT AMUSING TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE OUT AMIDST THE STARS SOMEWHERE AGONIZING OVER EVERY ATROCITY YOU HEAR RUMORED I HAVE PERPETRATED ON YOUR BELOVED HOMEWORLD.



FAREWELL, DARKLON OF NO WORLD!



MAY YOUR NIGHTS BE LONG AND PAINFUL!

I FEAR THEY SHALL BE, DARK ONE



BUT NOT FOR THE REASONS YOU SUPPOSE

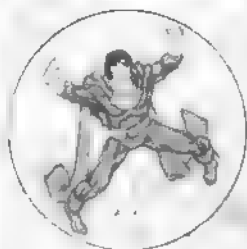


FAREWELL WHILE YOU MAY, EVIL ONE, AND



MAY THE STARS FORGIVE US BOTH

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD
THE TRAGIC MYSTIC SOARS
FROM THE PALACE,
LEAVING IN HIS WAKE...



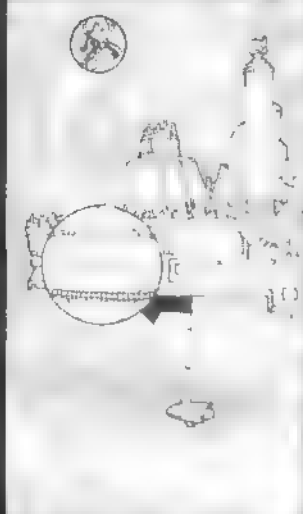
A SMALL CANISTER,
RELEASED BY A BUTTON
ON THE THRONE'S CONTROL
PANEL, FALLING INTO THE
PLANET'S INNER DEPTHS...



THE JOY OF VICTORY
SHATTERED BY SIX
VENOMOUS WORDS...



THE MYSTICAL ENERGY
SPHERE CARRIES DARKLON
OUT OF THE FLOATING CITY
OF NEBULOR AS...



THAT SAME CYLINDER
SPLASHES INTO A HUGE
CHEMICAL WAT DEEP
WITHIN NEBULARIA'S
HEART...



FAREWELL WHILE YOU
MAY, EVIL ONE! WHAT
MEANT HE BY SUCH A
CRYPTIC DEPARTURE?



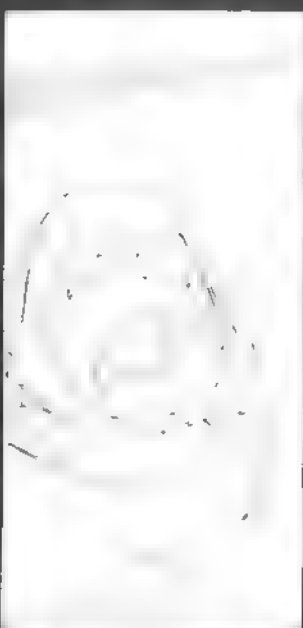
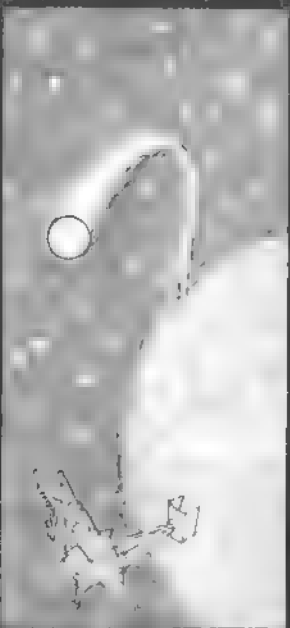
DARKLON'S TEAR-FULL
EYE NOTICES NOT HIS
DEPARTURE FROM HIS
WORLD'S OUTER ATMOSPHERE
FOR HIS MIND
SEES ONLY...



THE REACTION OF THE
CONTAMINATION AGENT
UPON THE GIANT CAULDRON
OF PLANETARY DEATH DEEP
IN THE PLANET'S CORE...
BUBBLES, CHANGES
COLORS... PREPARES TO
KILL.

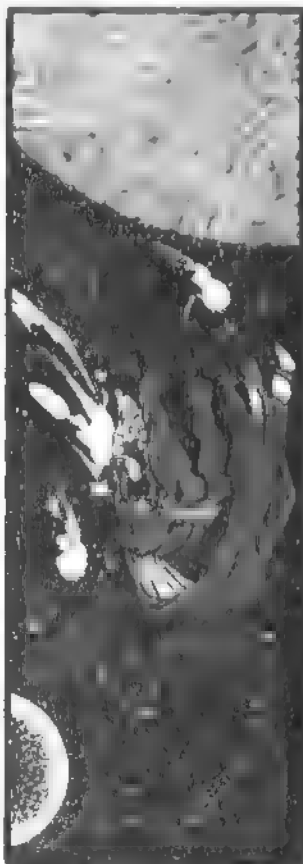


WELL, IT MATTERS NOT
WHAT DARKLON MEANT.
THE THRONE OF NEBULARIA
IS NOW M... THRONE
CONTROL PANEL...





THE CHOICE WAS HIS, AS WILL BE THE ACCUSING MEMORY. AS THE SOVEREIGN OF THE NEBULARIAN EMPIRE HE WAS DUTY BOUND TO DECIDE THE FATE OF TWENTY BILLION SOULS. **THE CHOICE:** CENTURIES OF TORMENT AND SLOW DESTRUCTION OR A CLEAN DEATH. **THE DECISION:** NEBULARIA, A GLEAMING GEM IN THE DARKNESS, HAS FADED. BUT ITS PASSING HAS SPARED THE HEAVENS FROM THE SHADOW OF NAMELESS EVIL. SO AS ALWAYS, IN THE END A BALANCE IS STRUCK



THE YOUNG MAN'S STABILIZED... HIS VITAL SIGNS HAVE STEADIED.

GOOD! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

SO AS WITH MOST ANSWERS, NEW QUESTIONS SPRING TO LIFE AND TASTE OF BITTER IRONY.

END

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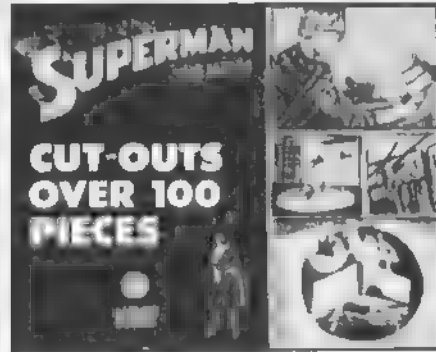
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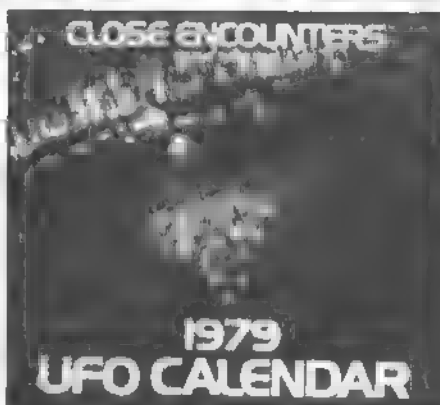
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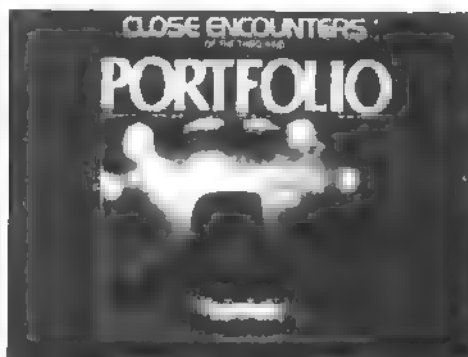
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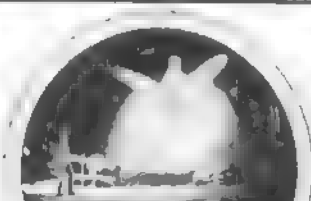
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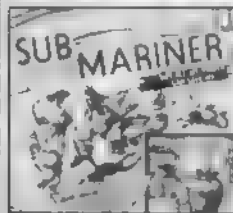
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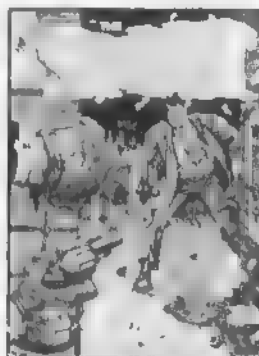
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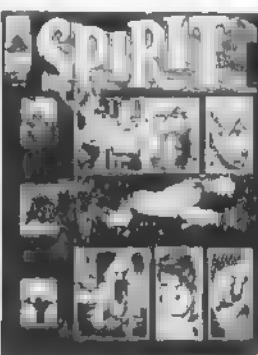
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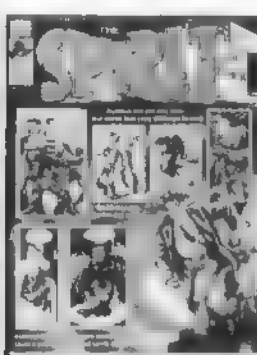
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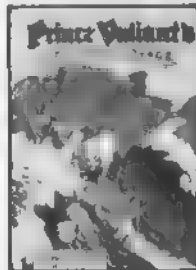
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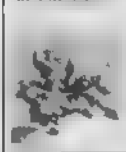
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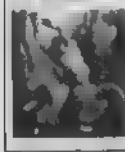
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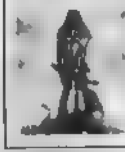
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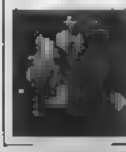
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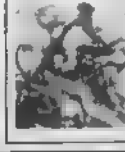
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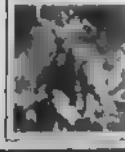
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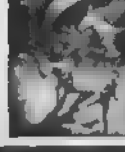
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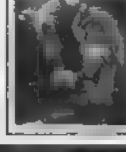
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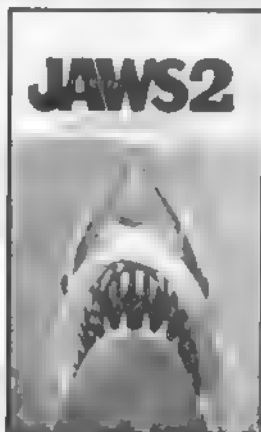
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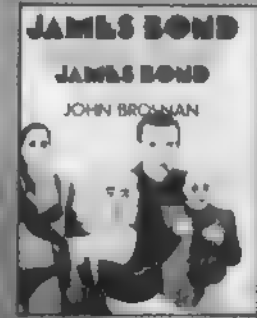
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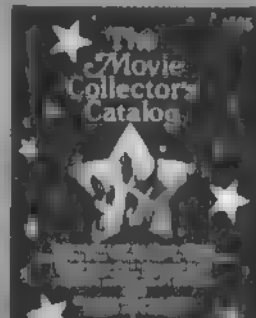
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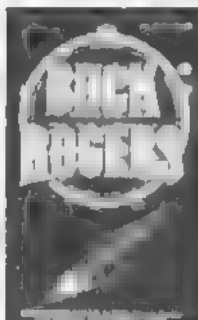
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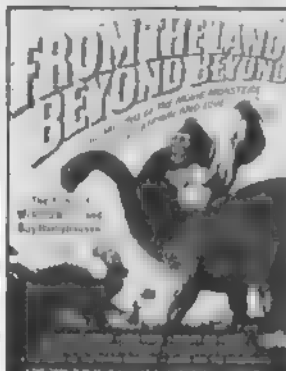


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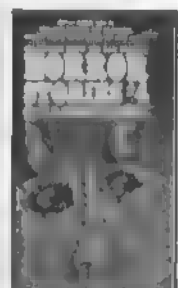
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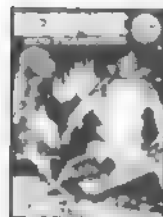
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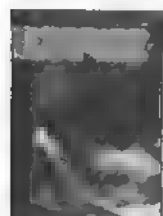
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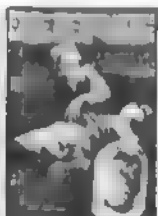
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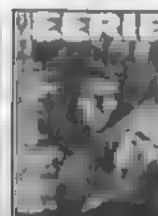
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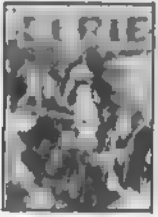
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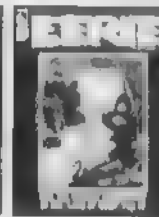
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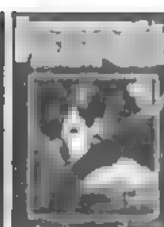
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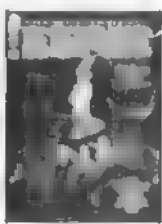
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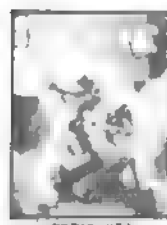
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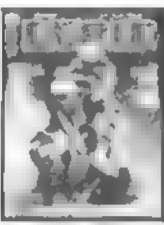
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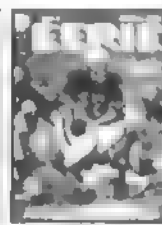
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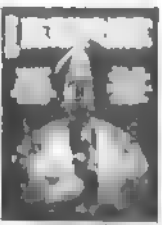
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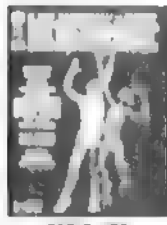
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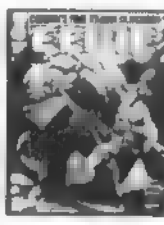
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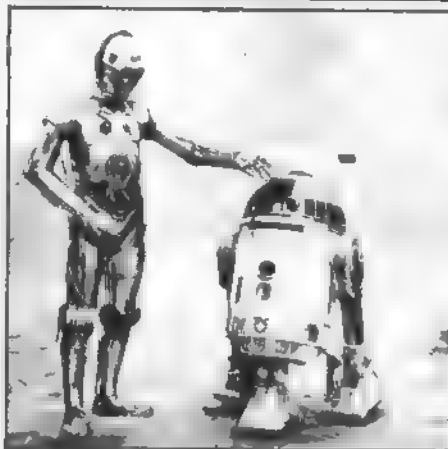


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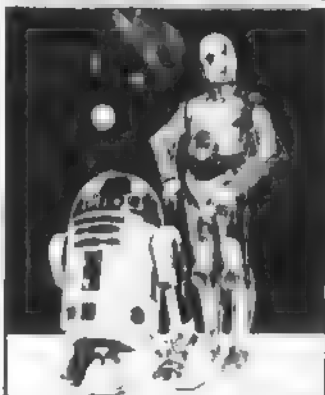
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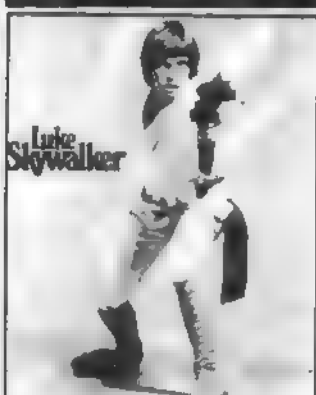
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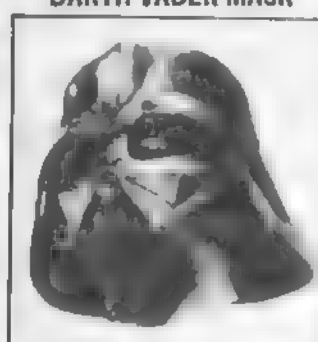
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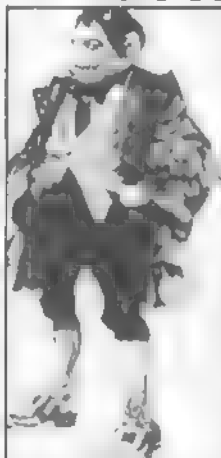
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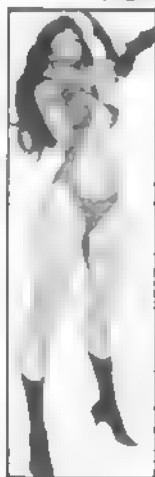
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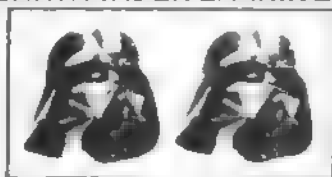
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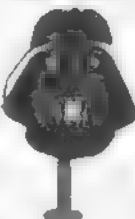
STAR WARS WATCH Darth Vader stands on the face of this fabulous watch with his light saber drawn & his cape flung open in a battle ready stance! The dark lord of the Empire shows his defiance, his deadly nature & spine tingling attitude that made the stars themselves shiver in his presence. Darth takes time for you. A colorful face easy to read numbers & adjustable band. Not smaller than is shown! #26101/\$21.95

DARTH VADER EARRINGS



DARTH VADER EARRINGS Now you can take Sith Lord Vader with you wherever you go. These glossy black earrings with hypo-allergenic posts will add a sinister obelisk black shimmer to your ears and to your every move! Will go last! #26089/\$3.95

SPECTACULAR STAR WARS STICK PINS



DARTH VADER STICK PIN Nemesis of Obi Wan Kenobi and Luke Skywalker. Bids his way onto our pin in a glossy black obelisk version which glints in a deadly way. Let all know that you are not one to be fooled around with or to be taken lightly. May the Force be with you. 2 1/4" long #26086/\$3.95

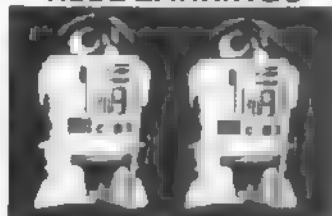


C3PO STICK PIN The faint hearted droid of the ultimate movie of all time proves to be the one that has it all. C3PO has a golden glow movable arms and has a 2 1/4" pin. Comes with pin cap for safety and long wear, & this fabulous piece of jewelry is going fast! #26088/\$3.95



R2D2 STICK PIN R2D2 perches atop this 2 1/4" pin with movable arms and comes with a cap cap to guarantee safety and long wear. R2D2 was never one to short his circuits as he wheeled his way through thick and thin. Able only to speak to other droids, he guarded rebel secrets. R2D2-2U2! #26087/\$3.95

R2D2 EARRINGS



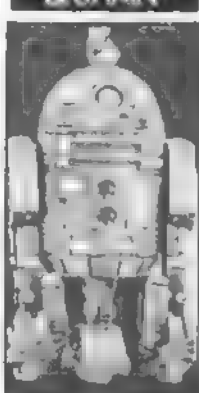
R2D2 EARRINGS 2 R2D2's! Use for each ear! These finely crafted earrings will add a silvery glow to your ears as you pursue your own Darth Vader across trackless wastes. They're hypo-allergenic & wearable for hours of fun! #26090/\$3.95

CHEWBACCA PENDANT & CHAIN

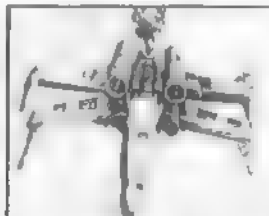


CHEWBACCA PENDANT & CHAIN An alien everyone loves to love. This 6 foot fighting machine charmed half the galaxy with his cuts and coddy face, fur and fighting. Whether he's slashing his way out of Death Star or adroitly piloting the Millennium Falcon, he is a guy you should have on your side. A wild and wookie time will be had by all! Big brown metal 2" pendant 18" chain #26079/\$4.95

R2D2 PENDANT & CHAIN



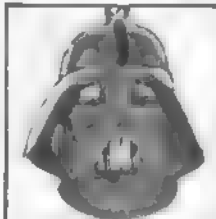
R2D2 PENDANT & CHAIN The brilliant and loyal droid from Star Wars who carries the very secrets of the rebel cause in locked holographic circuits is here to faithfully orbit from your neck on this pendant. Hang out with everyone's favorite robot! Star in wars of your own! Collect an entire set of star guys! R2D2 is 1 1/4" highly detailed brushed chrome, movable arms & 18" chain #26077/\$4.95



SPACESHIP CHAIN & PENDANT

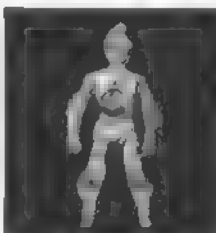
SPACE SHIP PENDANT & CHAIN Fabulous fighting machine from Star Wars that gave Luke Skywalker his hair raising victory in the Death Star Trench orbits from your neck in this large finely made detailed pendant of brushed chrome. Pendant is 1 1/4" with an 18" chain! #26078/\$4.95

DARTH VADER PENDANT & CHAIN



DARTH VADER PENDANT & CHAIN Ex-Jedi Knight & now SITH Lord to the Emperor, battle former teacher Obi Wan Kenobi on Death Star. Having become ensnared by a darker side of the force, Darth Vader used the teachings of Obi Wan Kenobi in the service of an Emperor trying to control an old corrupt galactic Empire. A 1 1/4" pendant mask with obelisk black enamel! 18" chain #26076/\$4.95

C3PO PENDANT & CHAIN



C3PO PENDANT & CHAIN The impeccably polite android from Star Wars whose fate became enmeshed in cosmic events, proved his courage over and over again. C3PO wore his color on the outside but he really belonged on the inside as a heart of gold. 11 droids have souls then surely C3PO has one. Movable arms, golden tone 2" high & with 18" chain so he hangs from your neck! #26075/\$4.95

C3PO EARRINGS



C3PO EARRINGS Star Wars favorite comic character will spread his golden aura from your ears. C3PO is finely crafted, a brilliant gold in color, hypo-allergenic & longlasting. This incredible piece of jewelry is guaranteed to go fast. #26091/\$3.95

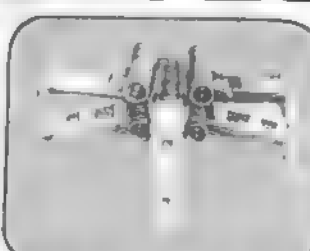
STAR WARS BELT BUCKLES



DARTH VADER BELT BUCKLE Lord Darth Vader's sinister black face mask proved he is the Master of Evil. The former Jedi Knight appears in relief on our lustrious 2 x3 bronze belt buckle. #26073/\$4.75



STAR WARS BELT BUCKLE This lustrious bronze 2 x3 buckle contains the logo of the most popular movie of all time of all space of this or any other universe. The buckle is cast in heavy metal. #26072/\$4.75



SPACE SHIP BELT BUCKLE The greatest space ships ever made come darting around the curve of a dead moon. Deadly fighting ships from Star Wars embellish our heavy bronze belt buckle. 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 #26074/\$4.75



R2D2 & C3PO BELT BUCKLE The dynamic duo of the space ways heroes of Star Wars and saviors of the universe have landed in our heavy metal lustrious bronze belt buckle. 2 x3 HOT STUFF #26071/\$4.75

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

STAR WARS COLLECTOR'S CLASSICS!

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!



STAR WARS MOVIE COLOR & SOUND!

You've seen the greatest movie of all time a dozen times & you want more? Bring it home! Super 8 color & sound at 400 ft. See the stars! #22124/\$54.95



STAR WARS 1979 CALENDAR

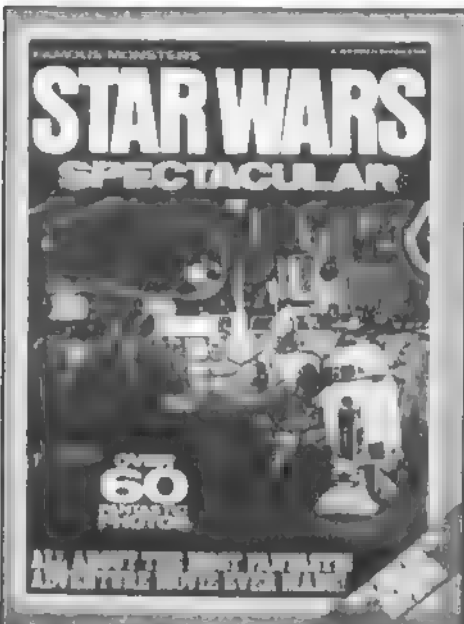
14 photos never before printed from Star Wars of everyone & everything—R2D2, Leia, Luke, Han C3PO & so much more! Wow! Get in line for 79! #26102/\$4.95



FORCE BEAM
An incredible force beam to simulate the laser swords of Star Wars! Now your arsenal is complete! You too can fight old, evil Darth, to the death for once and for all! What can Darth do? Can good triumph? Will the rebels win? Two D cell batteries not included. #26041/\$7.99 2 for \$14.95

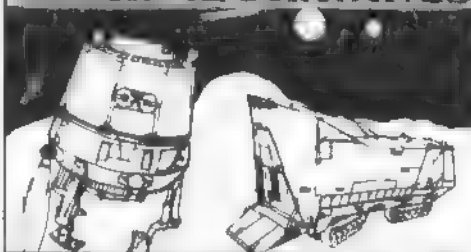


STAR WARS BLUEPRINTS 12 detailed giant-sized blueprints including Death Star, Sandcrawler, Millennium Falcon. Unfold to about 8'x30"! #26039/\$6.95



Of all the magazines which feature articles on STAR WARS, ours was the first, most complete and the finest! Buy! STAR WAR SPECTACULAR/\$3.00.

SKETCHBOOK & ORIGINAL DRAWINGS



Joe Johnston's drawings for Star Wars are pulled together in this 8 1/2" x 11" paperback which is chock full of black and white sketches of every conceivable machine, pod, ship, weapon and Death Star itself. The drawings are the initial designs for all the models from the film with commentary about the problems of each sketch! 96 pages. #26028/\$4.95

PORTFOLIO of PAINTINGS



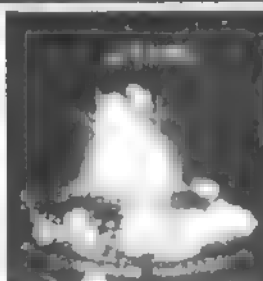
The incredible Ralph McQuarrie whose paintings were the inspiration for the sets, costumes and scenery for Star Wars are collected in this paperback. All the paintings are in full color & printed on unbacked high quality paper which is suitable for framing! The paintings are loaded with action and are rich in detail! #26029/\$7.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



EXTRATERRESTRIAL BENDABLE FIGURE

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND EXTRATERRESTRIAL BENDABLE FIGURE We are not alone! At least, not any more. The extraterrestrial from the film is here! Approximately 7" tall from toe to head, his flesh-toned face smiles "hi!" #26060/\$2.00



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND POSTER PEN SET

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS POSTER and PEN SET

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND POSTER PEN SET Now, recreate Close Encounters, most colorful film yet, with a Poster Pen Set. 7 vivid, non-toxic pens, a 16"x22" poster board and instructions plus a bonus FULL COLOR POSTER are in this kit. #24202/\$4.50

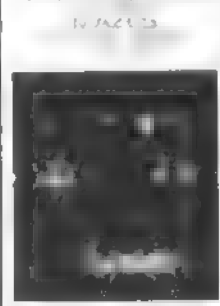
CLOSER ENCOUNTERS with CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



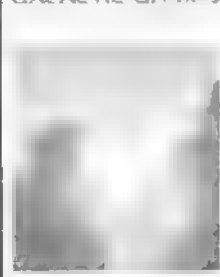
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND WORD WEBS & LETTER UP PAPERBACK 17 puzzles referring to the movie & 20 photos, lot of the film aliens. #21310/\$1.25

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND MAZES PAPERBACK Wind your way through 20 out-of-this world mazes based on the film. 23 fabulous photographs. #21308/95c

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS GALACTIC GAMES



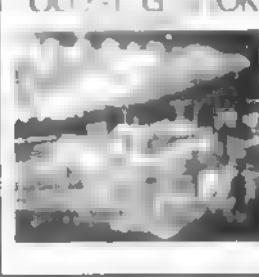
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND GALACTIC GAMES PAPERBACK 24 crosswords, acrostics, codes and more based on the film plus 24 movie photographs. #21309/95c

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS DOT TO DOT

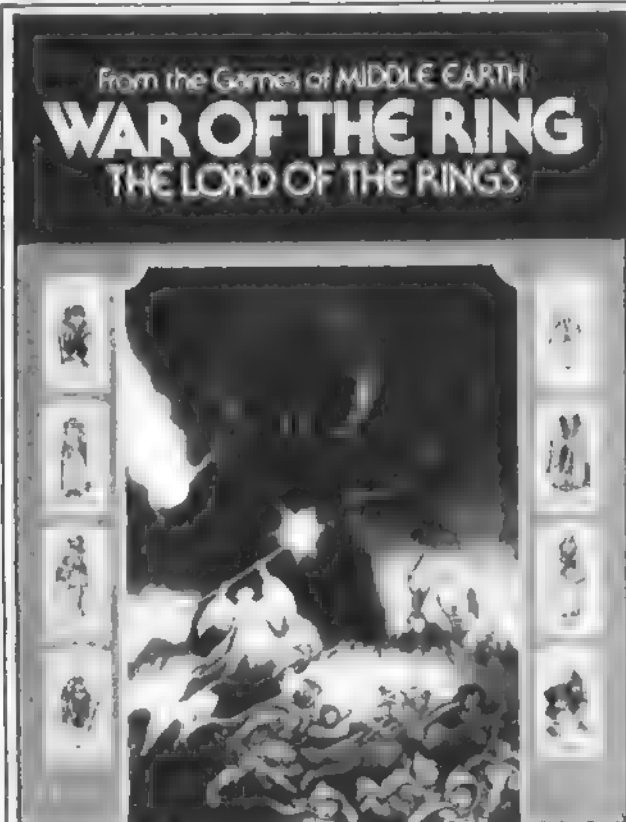


CLOSE ENCOUNTERS of the THIRD KIND DOT-TO-DOTS PAPERBACK Connect the dots to recreate scenes from the movie. 8"x10 1/2" with 9 big photographs to conjure memories of the film. #21311/\$1.25

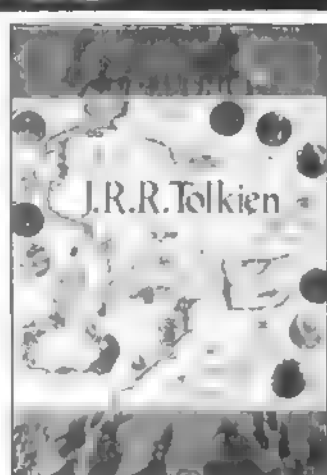
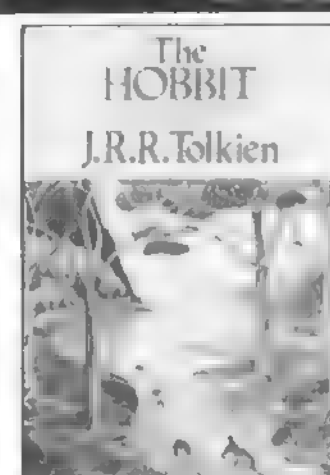
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS COLORING BOOK



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND COLORING BOOK Story of the movie retold in black and white illustrations for you to color. 64 pages, a large-size 8"x10 1/2" paperback format. #21312/\$1.25



EXCITING GAME! GREAT PUZZLES! from LORD of the RINGS

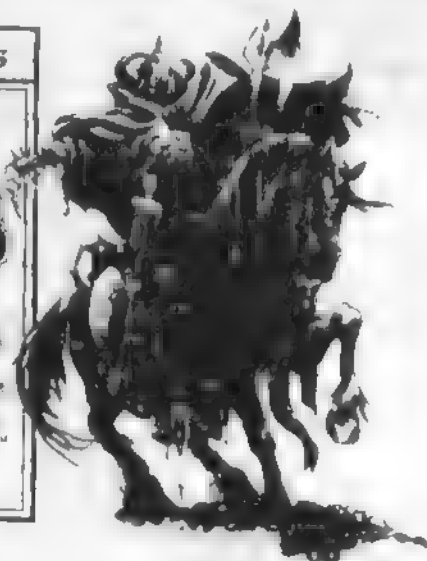
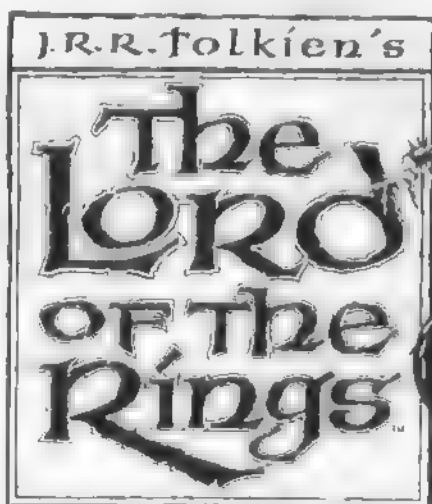


WAR OF THE RING The great sweep of J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings is brought alive as you can experience the same adventures as Frodo in this epochal game of sword & sorcery. Comes with board, cards and a complete instruction manual & rules of various levels of play as well as a history of all the characters and institutions! This is a two player game in which the free people of Middle Earth fight the forces of the Dark Lord Sauron in the Third Age. #26099/\$15.00

LORD OF THE RINGS PUZZLE This incredible two sided puzzle features a map of Middle Earth and on the flip side there is Tolkien's painting "Bilbo Comes to the Huts of the Ruffians". Both in full color. 21"x15", 500 pieces. #24112/\$5.95

MAP OF MIDDLE EARTH Pauline Baynes strikes again as she very beautifully renders Tolkien's cartography of Middle Earth in true medieval fashion! This fantastic puzzle is in full color and has over 500 pieces! #24128/\$4.95

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



To all people living in the Younger Days, a message from Middle Earth:

The Fellowship

An alliance of Men and Elves Dwarves and Hobbits is extending the honor of membership in remembrance of the nine chosen by Elrond to combat the Dark Lord. Unite with Those who sought adventure on a journey through Middle Earth. As a member of "The Fellowship", you will be first to learn of other events involving "The Lord of the Rings". A five dollar membership fee entitles you to merchandise valued at fifteen dollars crafted especially for members. You will receive

Two full color posters, each measuring 22" x 31 1/2"

Self adhesive "The Lord of the Rings" decal sticker

Official Fellowship membership certificate suitable for framing

Fellowship bumper sticker

Fellowship button

Fellowship key ring

Through your Fellowship membership, you will also be able to purchase selected "Lord of the Rings" retail items at a discount, in addition to other exclusive Fellowship merchandise not available in stores. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

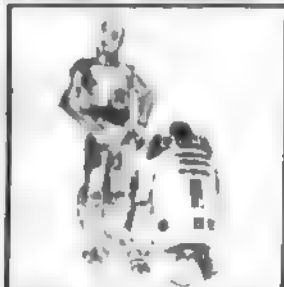
The Fellowship P.O. Box 2005, Berkeley, Calif. 94702

I welcome the opportunity and accept the honor of becoming a member of THE FELLOWSHIP
I have enclosed a \$5.00 check or money order

First Name	MI	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street No	Street Name	Apt No
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State	Zip Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Please allow four to six weeks for delivery

STAR WARS BEACH TOWELS



TWO ROBOTS BEACH TOWEL Rest easy at the beach with C-3PO and R2-D2. Robot figures printed in full color on 100% cotton velour background. Towel hemmed and measures 31"x60". #26052/\$6.00



DARTH VADER BEACH TOWEL This fabulous 100% cotton 31"x60" hemmed beach towel sports Darth Vader's image surrounded by attacking tie fighters and Star Wars logo. Full color. #26062/\$6.00

NEW! NEW! NEW!

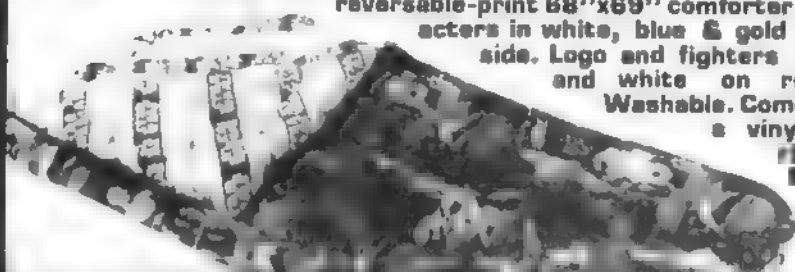
STAR WARS GOODIES!

STAR WARS TOOTH-BRUSH

Faces of Luke, Leia, Han Solo, R2 D2, C-3PO, Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Obi-Wan Kenobi decorate this automatic toothbrush! Recommended up & down brush action makes it a winner in the war against tooth-decay. 2 "C" batteries power this mechanical marvel. 2 brightly-colored replacement brushes put you ahead of the game. Watch the moving parts "move" in the transparent handle. A robot-tooth-brush, a Star Warrior's dream. #26070/\$6.50

STAR WARS SLEEPING BAG

Get into "Star Wars" with this synthetic-fiber filled sleeping bag. Unzips into a colorful, reversible-print 68"x69" comforter. Characters in white, blue & gold on one side. Logo and fighters in blue and white on reverse. Washable. Comes with a vinyl tote. #26050/\$27.95



STAR WARS PILLOWCASES

Dream of galaxies long ago and far, far away on colorful blue, white and gold percale pillowcases featuring a dramatic scene with Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, Artoo Detoo, See Threepio & Chewbacca! These pillowcases come 1 to a package and fit any standard-size normal pillows! #26049/\$3.50

A "force-ful" way to stay warm! New, colorful, 100% acrylic blanket, featuring "Star Wars" villains, 'droids, heroines and heroes! Vivid blues, golds & whites create a multi-hued blanket with beauty and durability. An asset to any "Star Wars" fan's room and/or collection! #26051/\$11.75

STAR WARS BLANKET



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BAG. Colorful
fabric. Burnt orange
inside. **CLOSE EN-**
COUNTERS on outside.
Washable. #28056/\$23.95

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS SLEEPING BAG

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS T-SHIRT

**CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS
T-SHIRT**
Men's
Ship Open

Boys Medium
#2760/\$4.50

Men's Small
#2760/\$4.50

Men's Medium
#2761/\$4.50

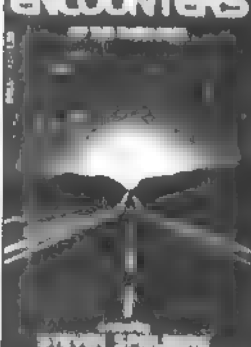


CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

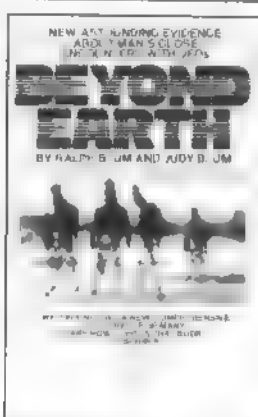


ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
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KIND SOUNDTRACK RECORD** Original
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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



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the movie! #21281 \$1.95



BEYOND EARTH We are not
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survey ever. 32 pages of illustra-
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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND



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**STRANGE
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UFO AND ALIEN COMIX, a Warren Magazine, features seven
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Get these gruesome goodies by joining Cousin Eerie's fan club. His lovely 8-1/2"x11" PORTRAIT (by Rich Corben), your official full color BADGE, plus a wallet-size MEMBERSHIP CARD! #2643 - All 3 Eerie items for \$2.00.



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SCIENCE FICTION FULL COLOR POSTERS



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STAR SQUAD Alien beings blast off for the ultimate armageddon among the far stars! 22"x35"! All in full color! #2998/\$2.50



THE SURVIVOR The star lost fight for survival on a world lost to the ken of man! 22"x35". All in full color! #29007/\$2.50



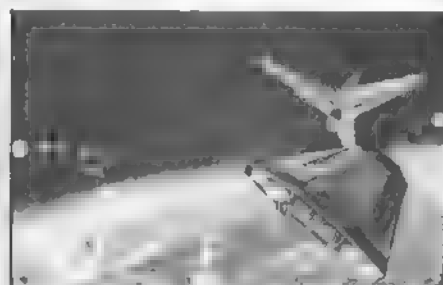
CHILDREN OF TOMORROW Oh! What glorious mysteries await our children's progeny! 22"x35". All in full color! #29009/\$2.50



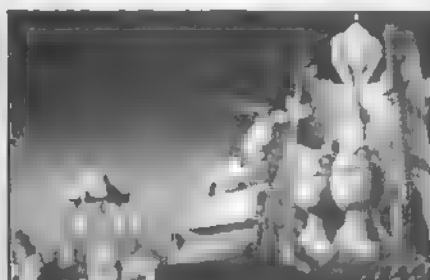
BATTLE OF THE GALAXIES Space battles erupt as defending craft are blasted into smithereens by voracious aliens of the rim! Big 22"x35"! All in full color! #2999/\$2.50



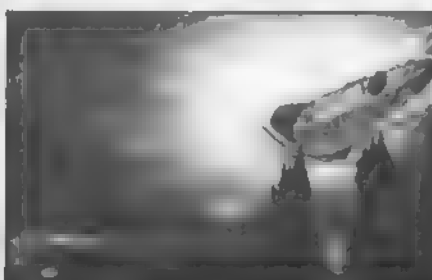
THOSE WHO WATCH An enormous alien craft hovers mysteriously above a multi-mooned & lovely world, a sun rises in a sapphire sky! Big 22"x35"! All in full color! #29001/\$2.50



EARTH ENSLAVED The Earth is engirdled by a matrix of golden pentahedrons! An enslavement which brings our childhood to an end! Big 22"x35"! All in full color! #29002/\$2.50



PLANET OF THE BLIND Blasting off from the stellar central spaceport, ships climb a fiery column of star reaching flames! Big 22"x35"! All in full color! #29004/\$2.50



JEWEL OF JAHREN A diamond yellow sun set in an emerald sky is eclipsed by a spaceship of unknown origin and purpose! Death? Big 22"x35"! All in full color! #29006/\$2.50



BRAIN WAVE A beautiful visualization from Poul Anderson's book in which the I.Q. of every living thing on Earth rises greatly! Big 22"x35"! All in full color! #29008/\$2.50

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COUSIN EERIE

WARREN POSTERS



UNCLE CREEPY painted by SANJULIAN 28"x20" of pulsating pigments. Compliment to Eerie, companion to 6 Vampi! #2948 UNCLE CREEPY POSTER \$2.00

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SPECIAL DOUBLE POSTERS! CREEPY #46 & EERIE #40 16"x22" Full Color on both sides. Order one copy for \$1.00 or two copies for \$1.50! #2940



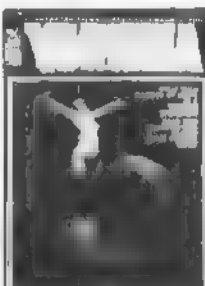
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FULL COLOR

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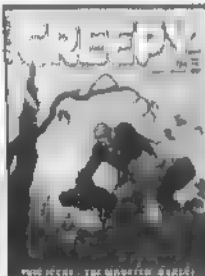
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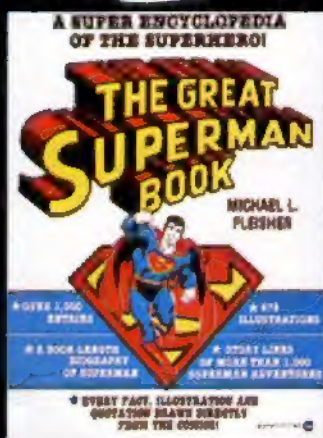
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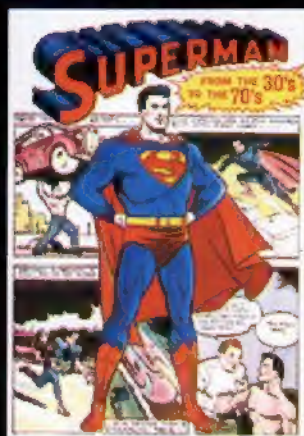
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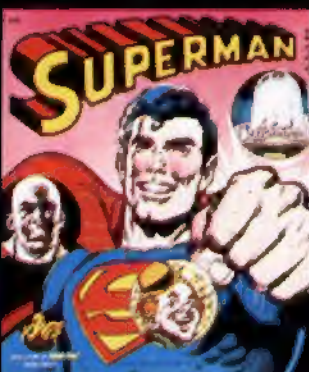
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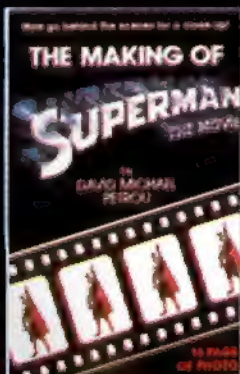
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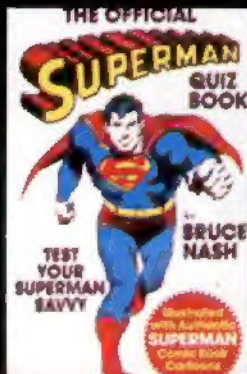
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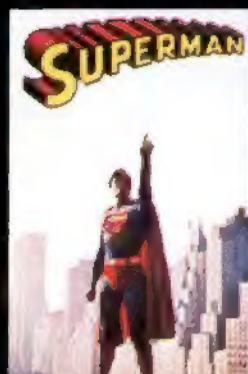
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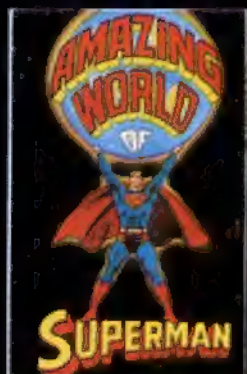
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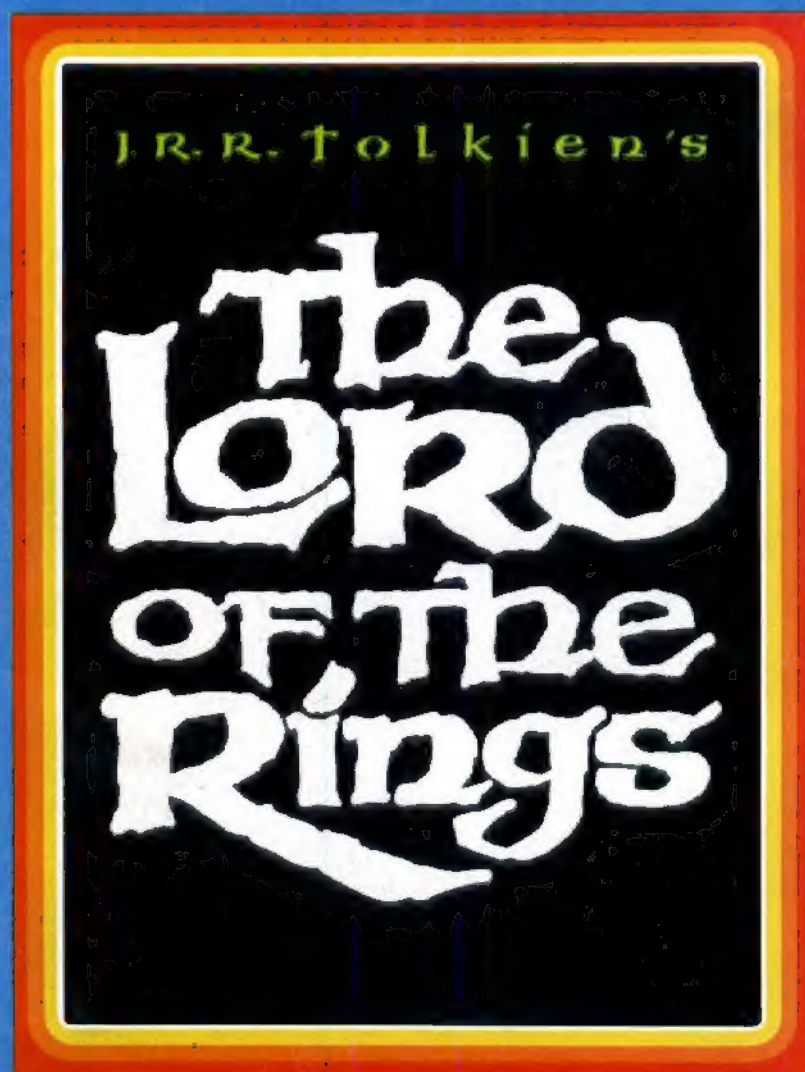


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